DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON MIKE SPICER

TRANSFORMERS

#02

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE TWO

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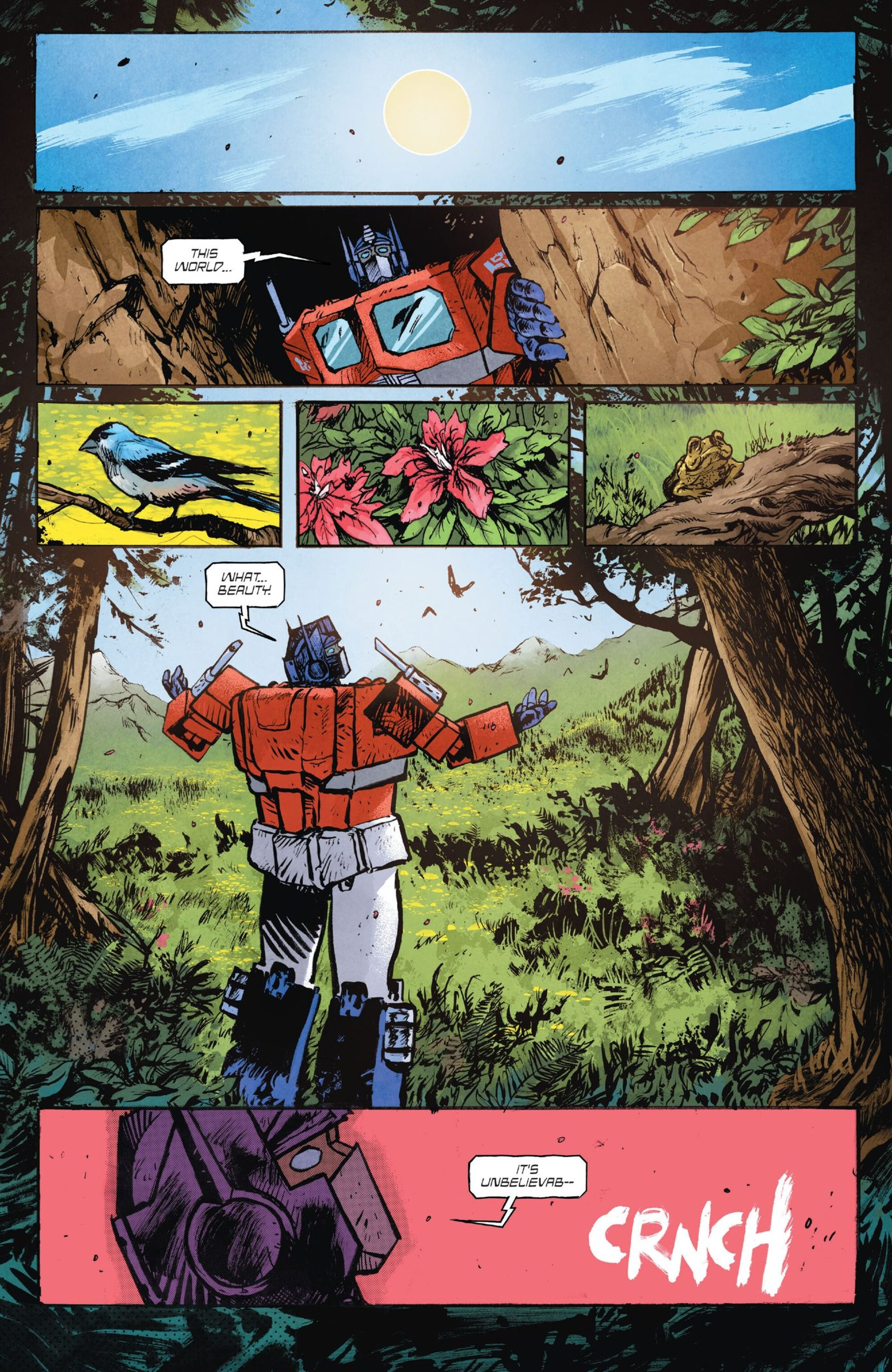
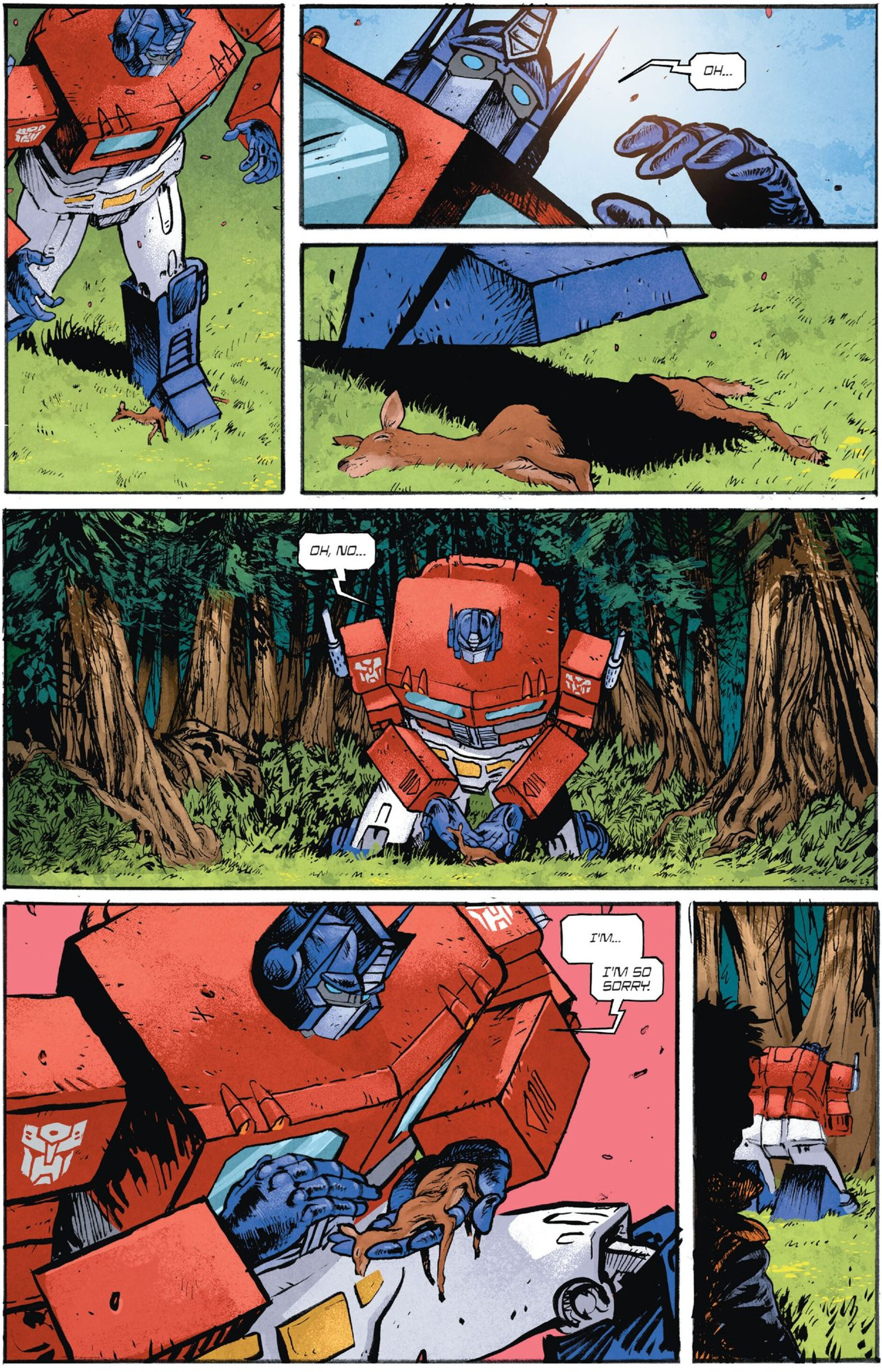
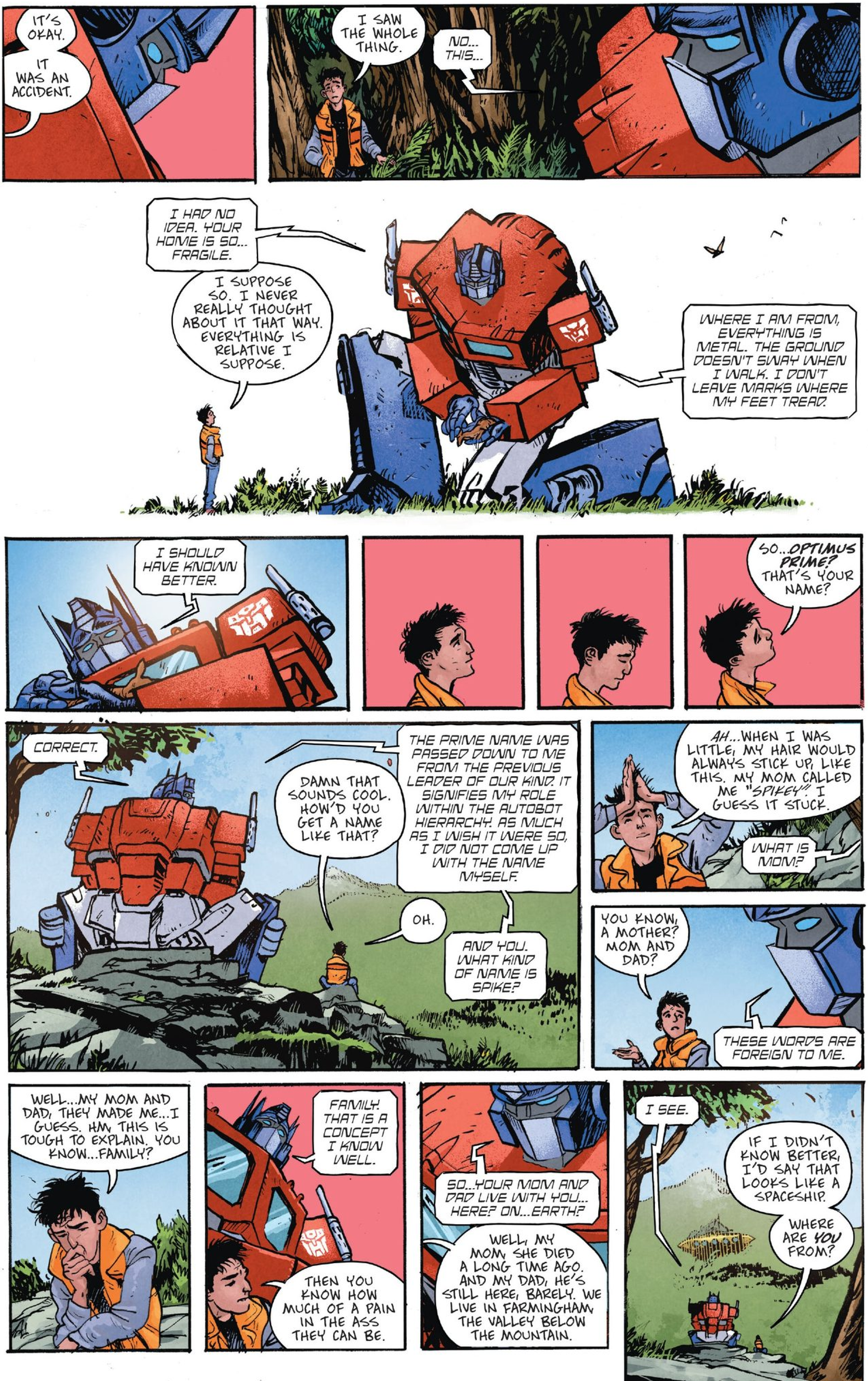
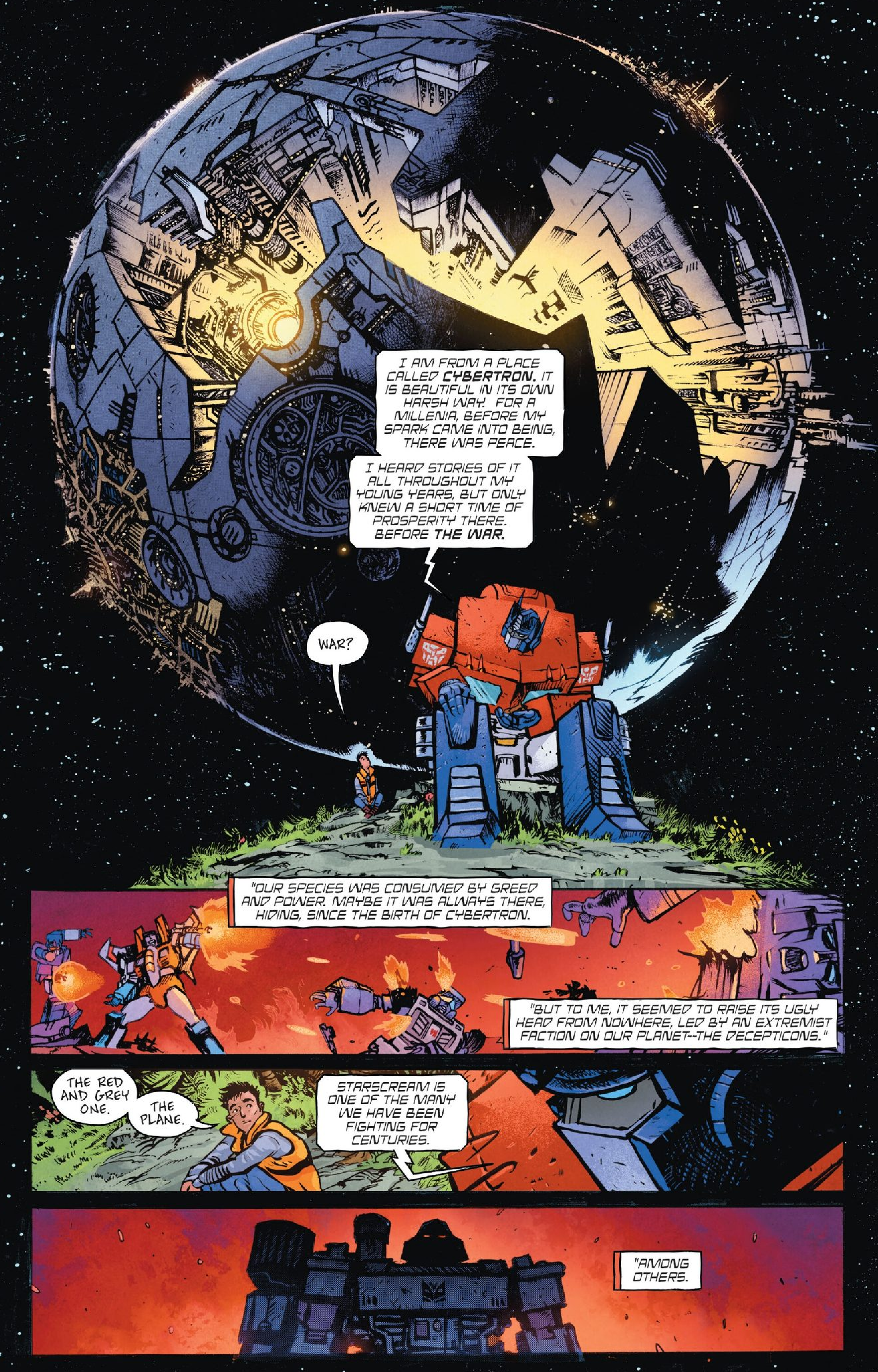
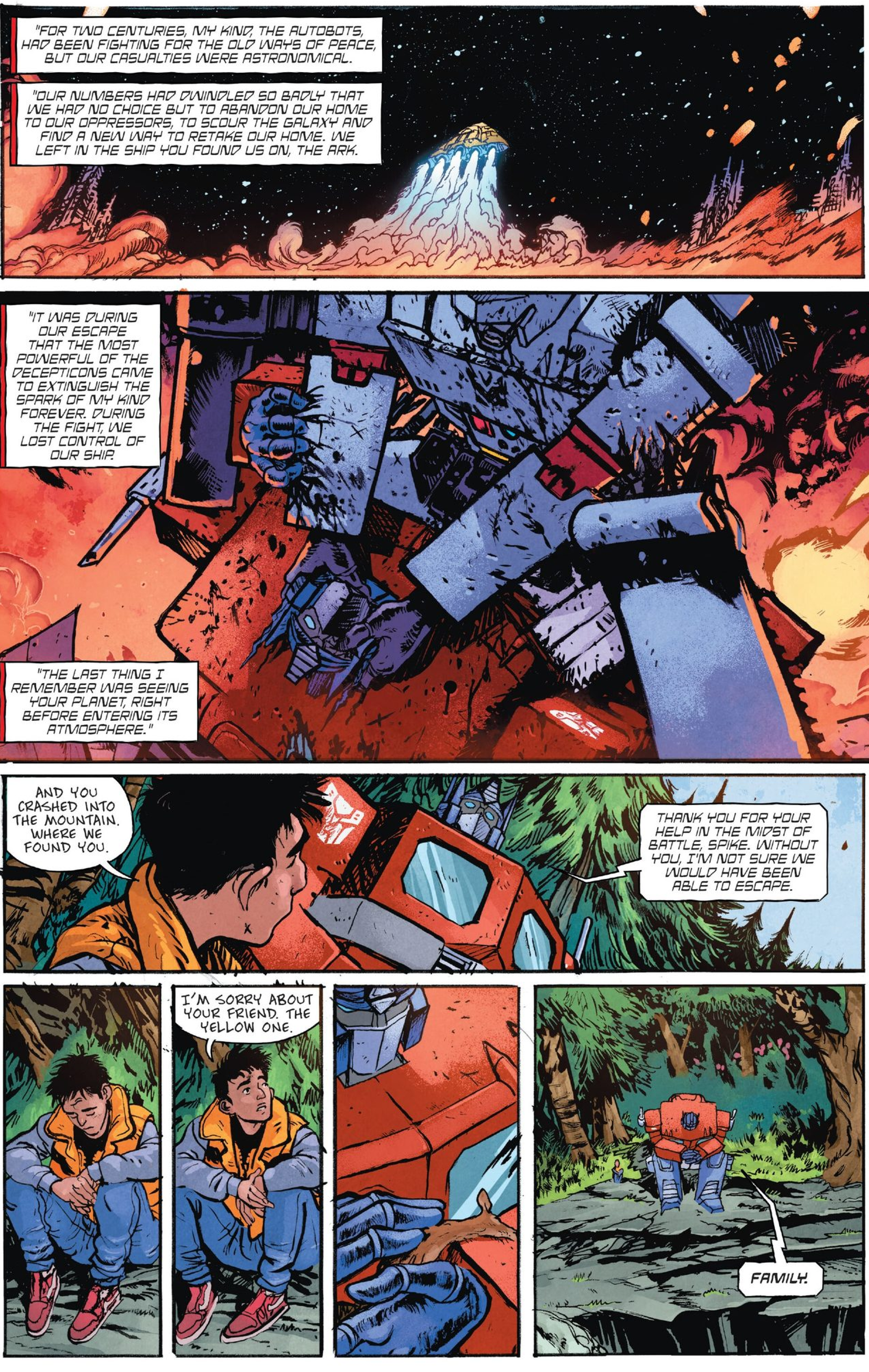
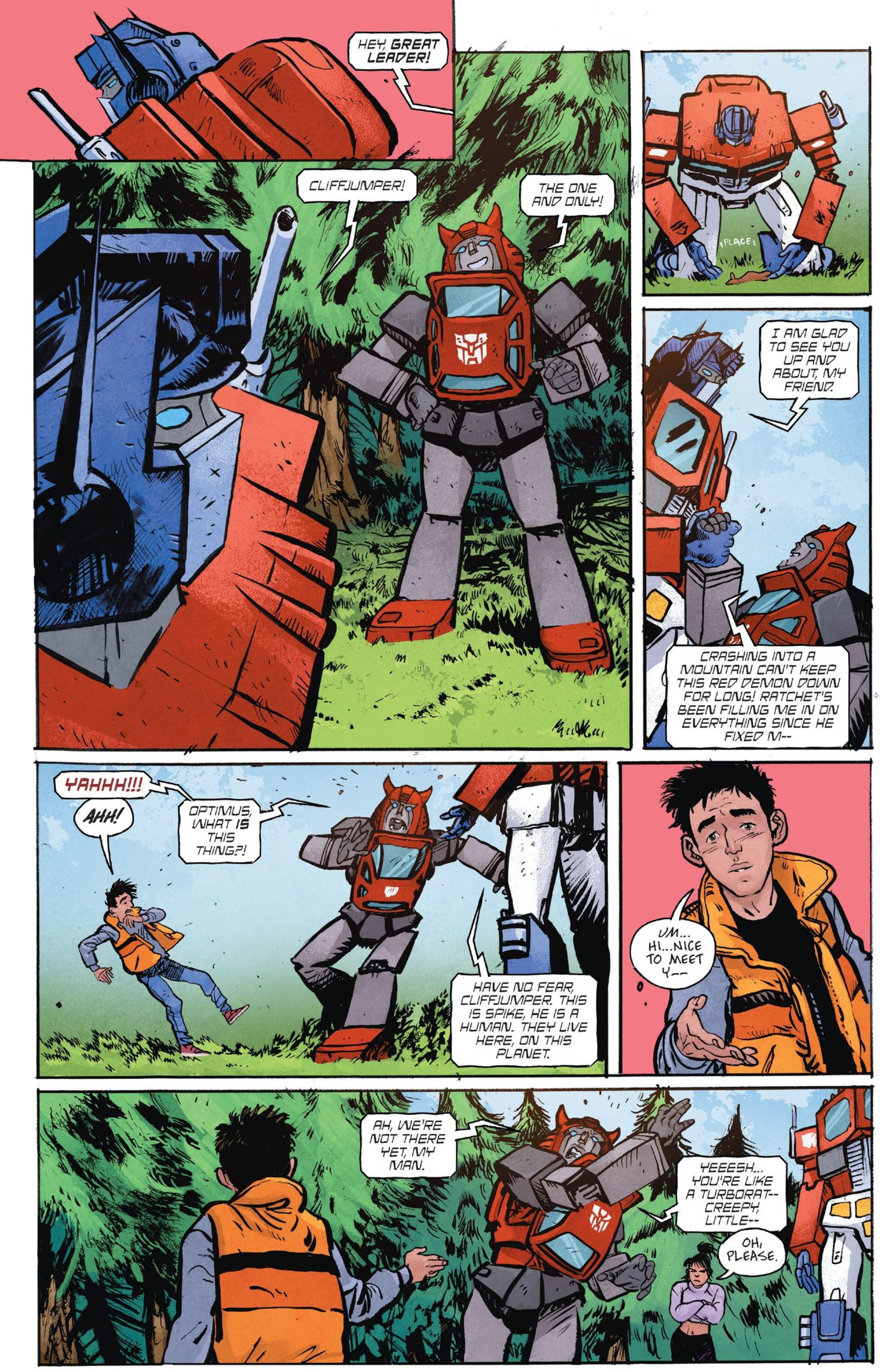

THIS WORLD...
WHAT... BEAUTY.
IT'S UNBELIEVAB--
CRNCH

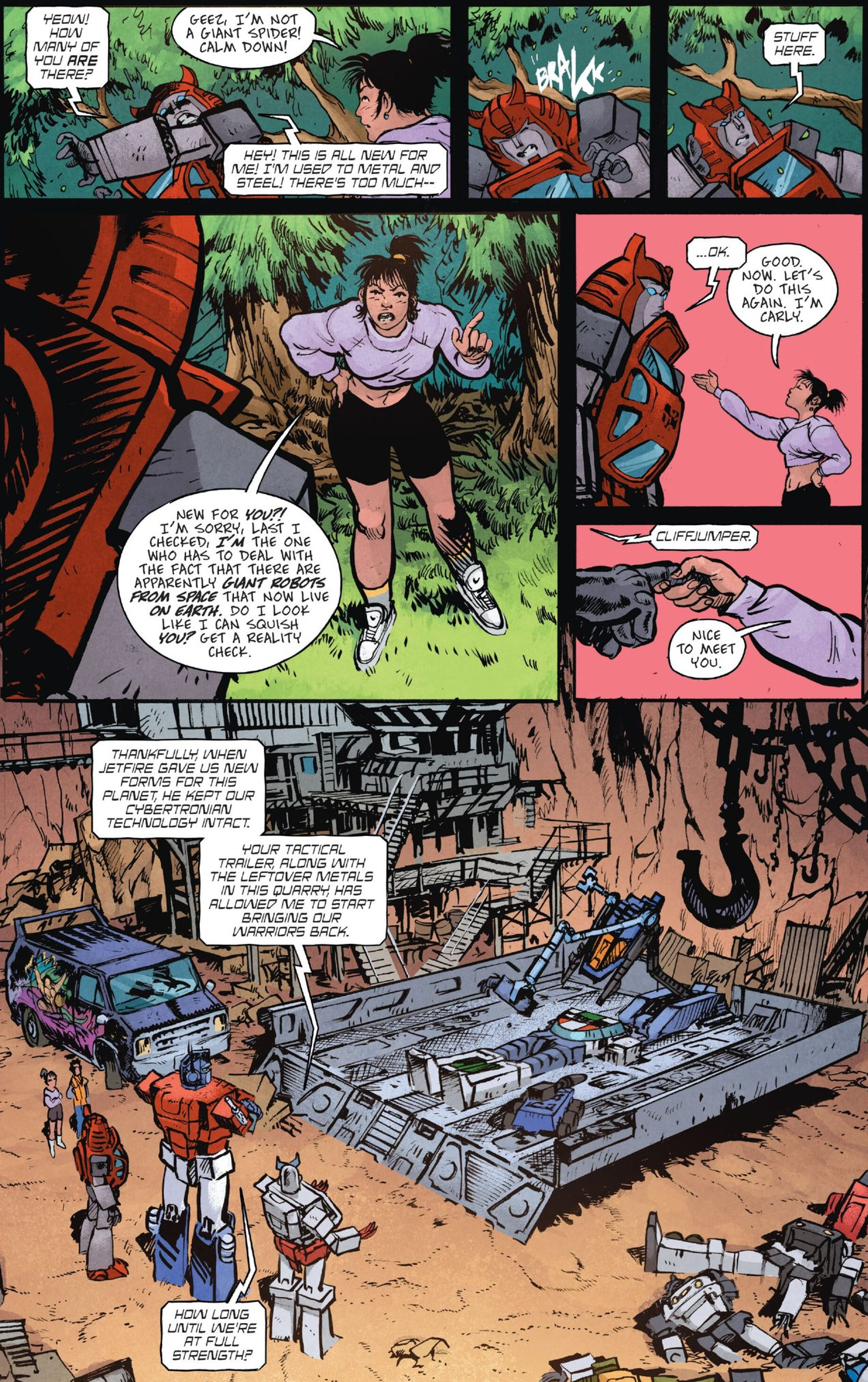

OH...
OH, NO...
I'M...
I'M SO SORRY.

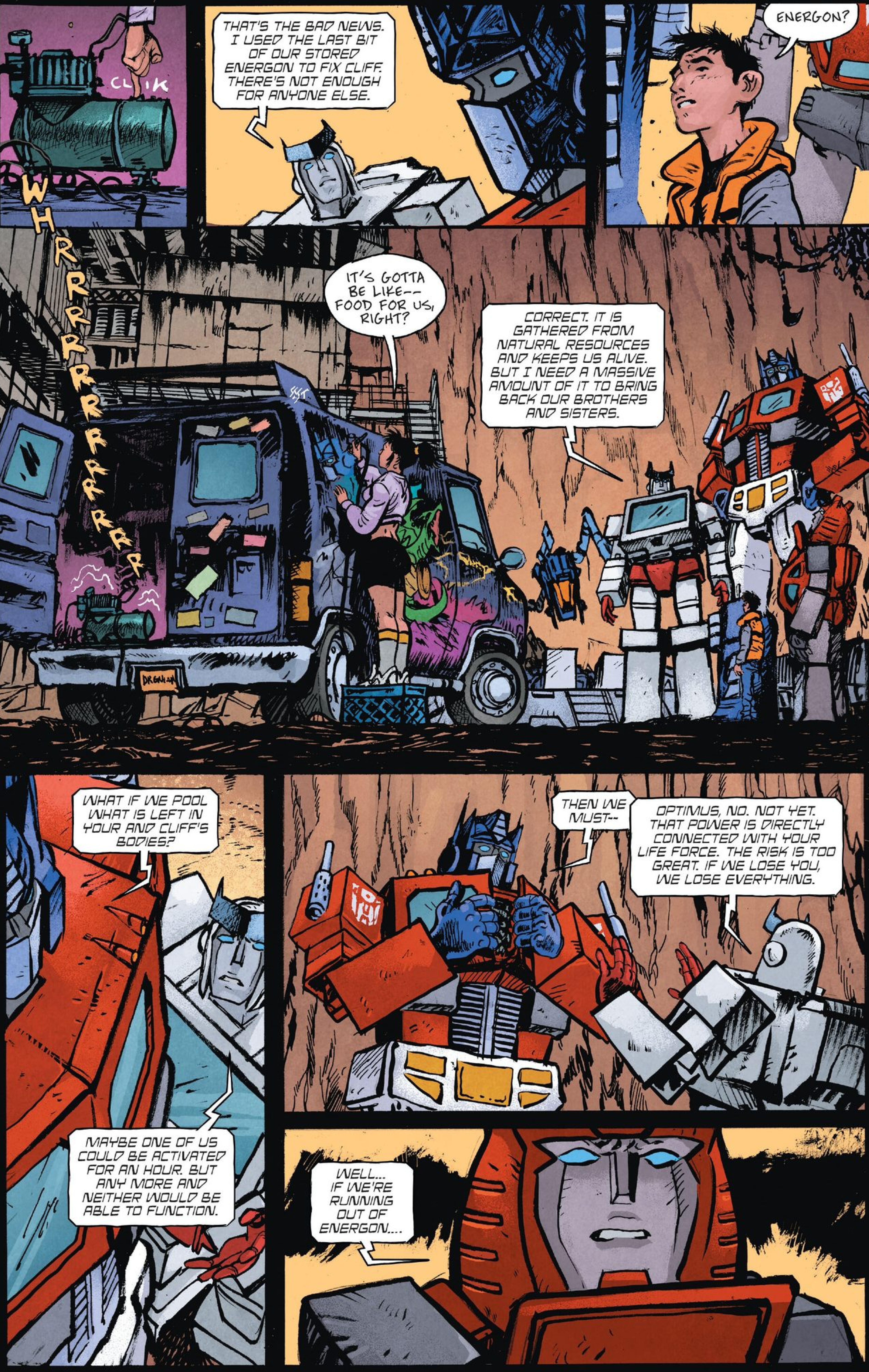

IT'S OKAY.
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
I SAW THE WHOLE THING.
NO... THIS...
I HAD NO IDEA. YOUR HOME IS SO... FRAGILE.
I SUPPOSE SO. I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT THAT WAY. EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE I SUPPOSE.
WHERE I AM FROM, EVERYTHING IS METAL. THE GROUND DOESN'T SWAY WHEN I WALK. I DON'T LEAVE MARKS WHERE MY FEET TREAD.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.
SO...**OPTIMUS PRIME?** THAT'S YOUR NAME?
CORRECT.
THE PRIME NAME WAS PASSED DOWN TO ME FROM THE PREVIOUS LEADER OF OUR KIND. IT SIGNIFIES MY ROLE WITHIN THE AUTOBOT HIERARCHY. AS MUCH AS I WISH IT WERE SO, I DID NOT COME UP WITH THE NAME MYSELF.
DAMN THAT SOUNDS COOL. HOW'D YOU GET A NAME LIKE THAT?
OH.
AND YOU. WHAT KIND OF NAME IS SPIKE?
AH...WHEN I WAS LITTLE, MY HAIR WOULD ALWAYS STICK UP, LIKE THIS. MY MOM CALLED ME "SPIKEY." I GUESS IT STUCK.
WHAT IS MOM?
YOU KNOW, A MOTHER? MOM AND DAD?
THESE WORDS ARE FOREIGN TO ME.
WELL...MY MOM AND DAD, THEY MADE ME...I GUESS. HM, THIS IS TOUGH TO EXPLAIN. YOU KNOW...FAMILY?
FAMILY. THAT IS A CONCEPT I KNOW WELL.
THEN YOU KNOW HOW MUCH OF A PAIN IN THE ASS THEY CAN BE.
SO...YOUR MOM AND DAD LIVE WITH YOU... HERE? ON...EARTH?
WELL, MY MOM, SHE DIED A LONG TIME AGO. AND MY DAD, HE'S STILL HERE, BARELY. WE LIVE IN FARMINGHAM, THE VALLEY BELOW THE MOUNTAIN.
I SEE.
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY THAT LOOKS LIKE A SPACESHIP.
WHERE ARE ***YOU*** FROM?

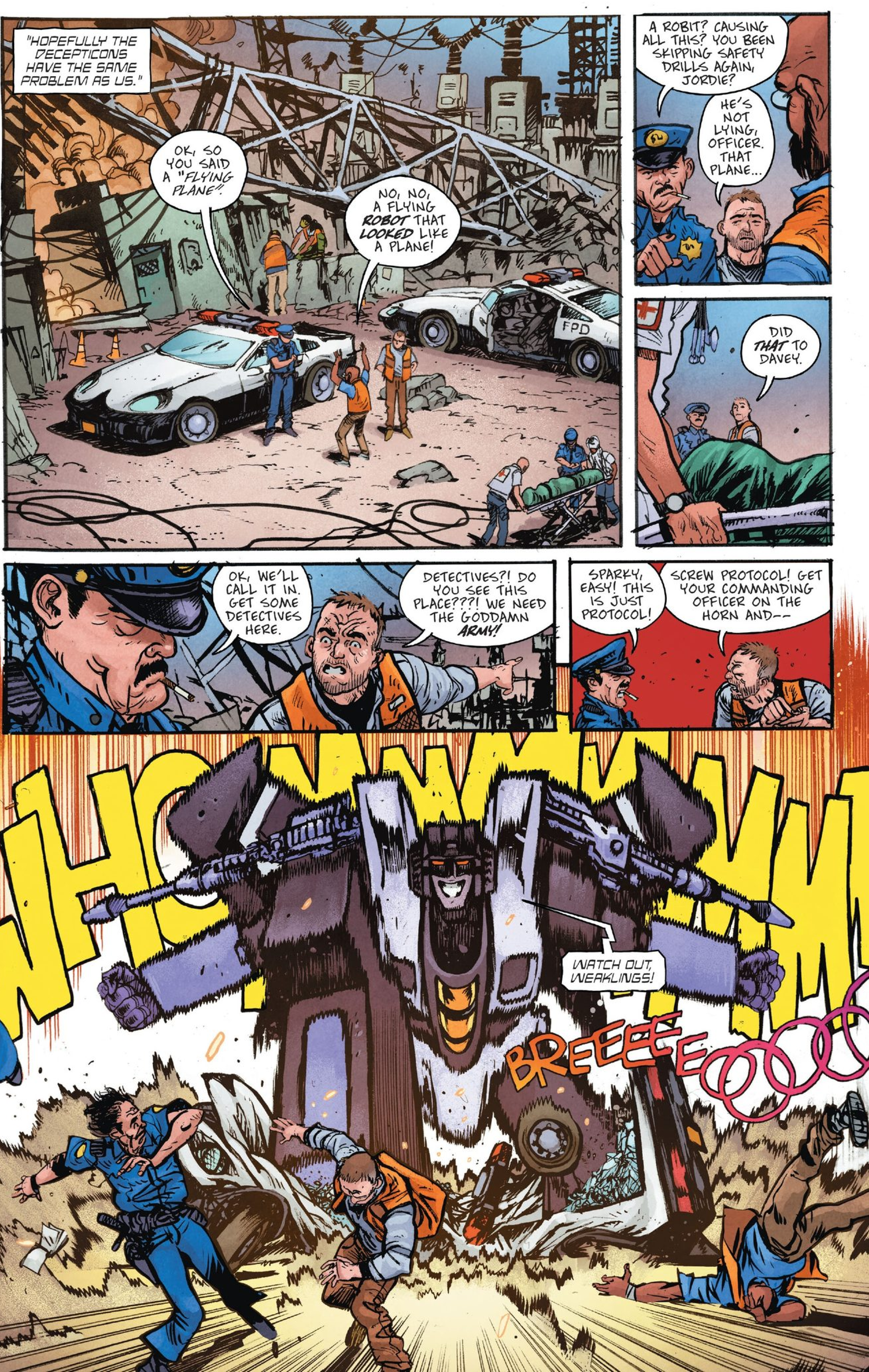

I AM FROM A PLACE CALLED **CYBERTRON.** IT IS BEAUTIFUL IN ITS OWN HARSH WAY. FOR A MILLENIA, BEFORE MY SPARK CAME INTO BEING, THERE WAS PEACE.
I HEARD STORIES OF IT ALL THROUGHOUT MY YOUNG YEARS, BUT ONLY KNEW A SHORT TIME OF PROSPERITY THERE. BEFORE **THE WAR.**
WAR?
"OUR SPECIES WAS CONSUMED BY GREED AND POWER. MAYBE IT WAS ALWAYS THERE, HIDING, SINCE THE BIRTH OF CYBERTRON.
"BUT TO ME, IT SEEMED TO RAISE ITS UGLY HEAD FROM NOWHERE, LED BY AN EXTREMIST FACTION ON OUR PLANET--THE DECEPTICONS."
THE RED AND GREY ONE.
THE PLANE.
STARSCREAM IS ONE OF THE MANY WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR CENTURIES.
"AMONG OTHERS.

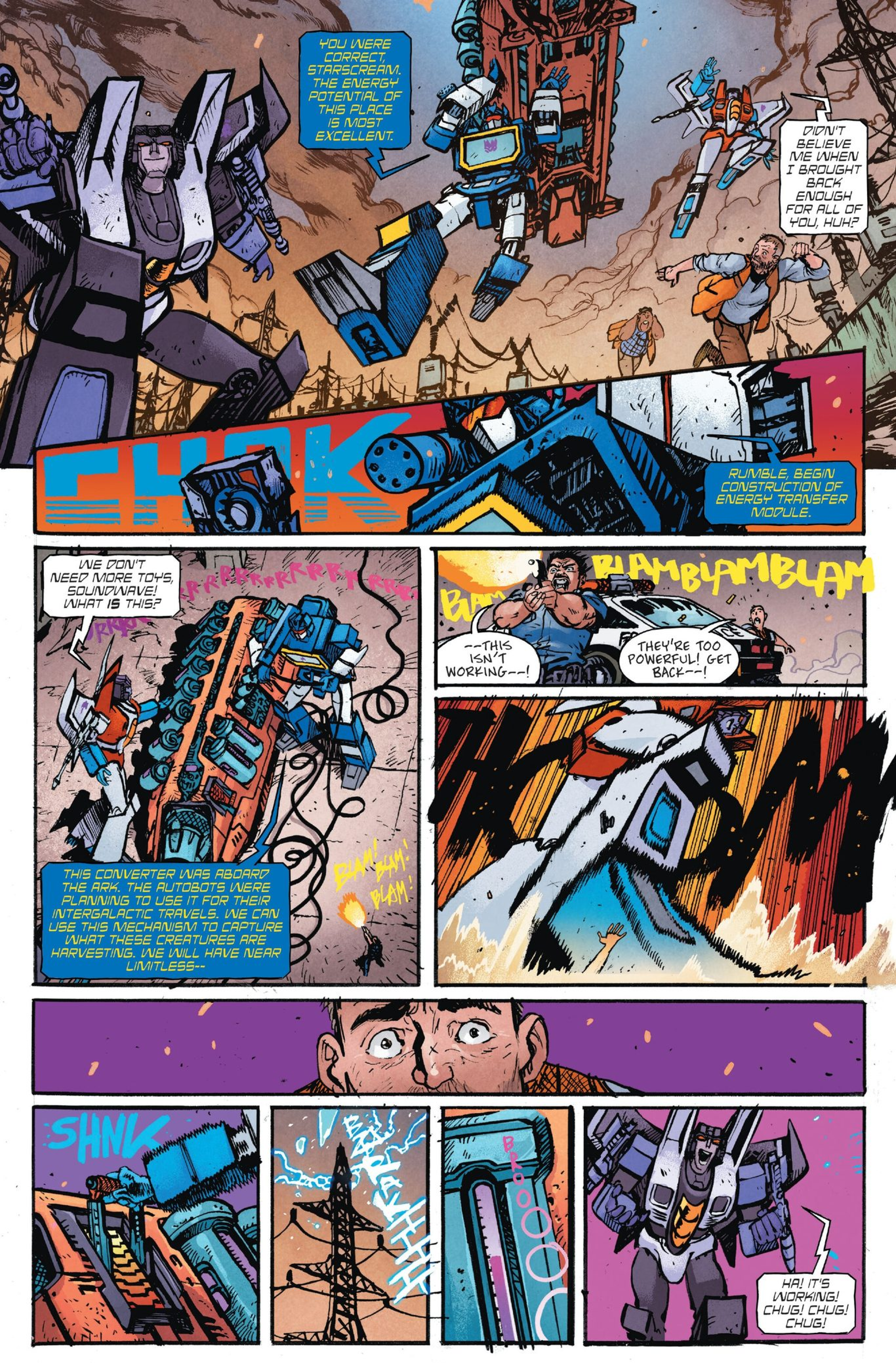

"FOR TWO CENTURIES, MY KIND, THE AUTOBOTS, HAD BEEN FIGHTING FOR THE OLD WAYS OF PEACE, BUT OUR CASUALTIES WERE ASTRONOMICAL.
"OUR NUMBERS HAD DWINDLED SO BADLY THAT WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ABANDON OUR HOME TO OUR OPPRESSORS, TO SCOUR THE GALAXY AND FIND A NEW WAY TO RETAKE OUR HOME. WE LEFT IN THE SHIP YOU FOUND US ON, THE ARK.
"IT WAS DURING OUR ESCAPE THAT THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE DECEPTICONS CAME TO EXTINGUISH THE SPARK OF MY KIND FOREVER. DURING THE FIGHT, WE LOST CONTROL OF OUR SHIP.
"THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS SEEING YOUR PLANET, RIGHT BEFORE ENTERING ITS ATMOSPHERE."
AND YOU CRASHED INTO THE MOUNTAIN. WHERE WE FOUND YOU.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE, SPIKE. WITHOUT YOU, I'M NOT SURE WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE.
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND. THE YELLOW ONE.
FAMILY.

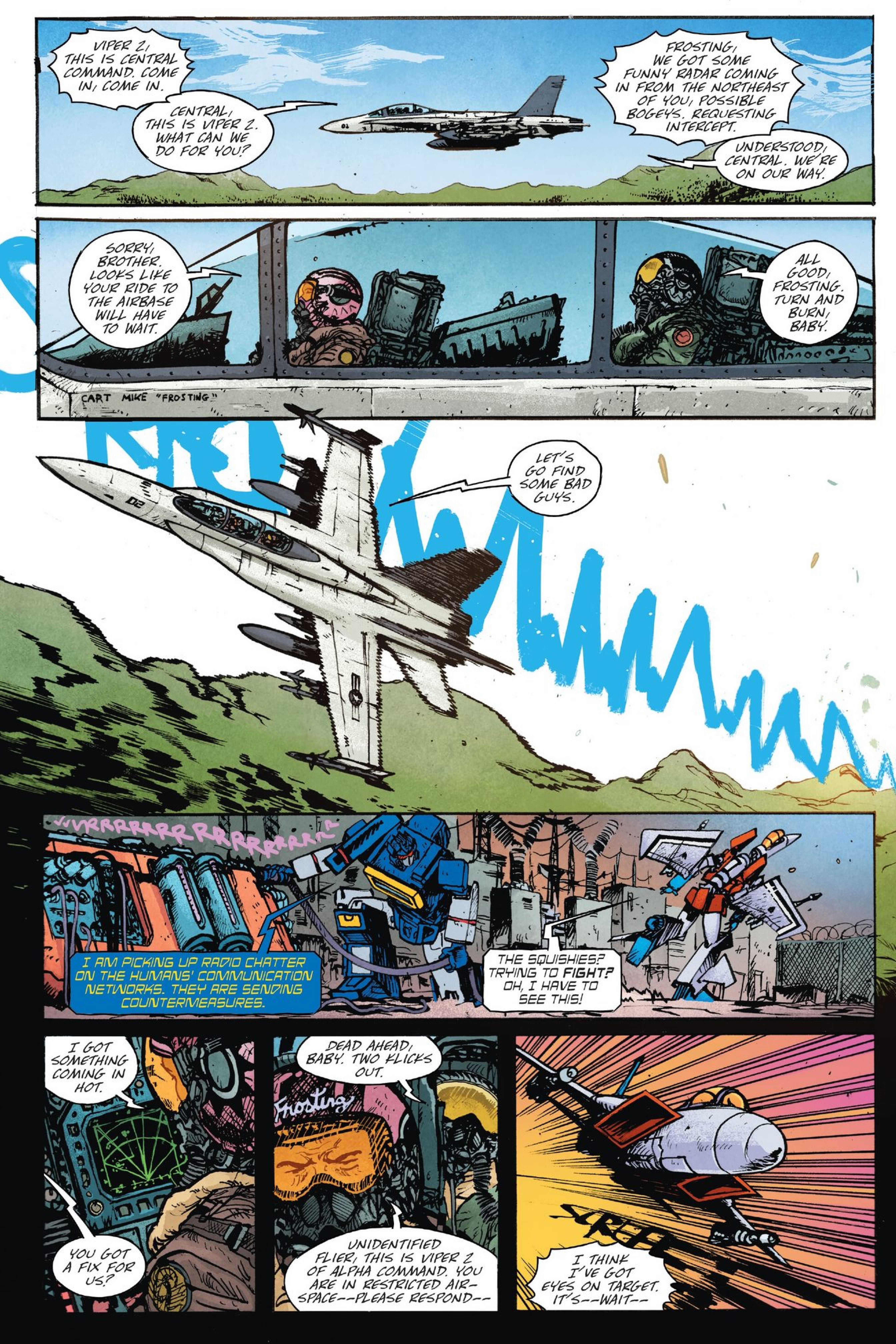

HEY, GREAT LEADER!
CLIFFJUMPER!
THE ONE AND ONLY!
PLACE
I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU UP AND ABOUT, MY FRIEND.
CRASHING INTO A MOUNTAIN CAN'T KEEP THIS RED DEMON DOWN FOR LONG! RATCHET'S BEEN FILLING ME IN ON EVERYTHING SINCE HE FIXED M--
YAHHH!!!
AHH!
OPTIMUS, WHAT IS THIS THING?!
HAVE NO FEAR, CLIFFJUMPER. THIS IS SPIKE, HE IS A HUMAN. THEY LIVE HERE, ON THIS PLANET.
UM... HI...NICE TO MEET Y--
AH, WE'RE NOT THERE YET, MY MAN.
YEEESH... YOU'RE LIKE A TURBORAT-- CREEPY, LITTLE--
OH, PLEASE.

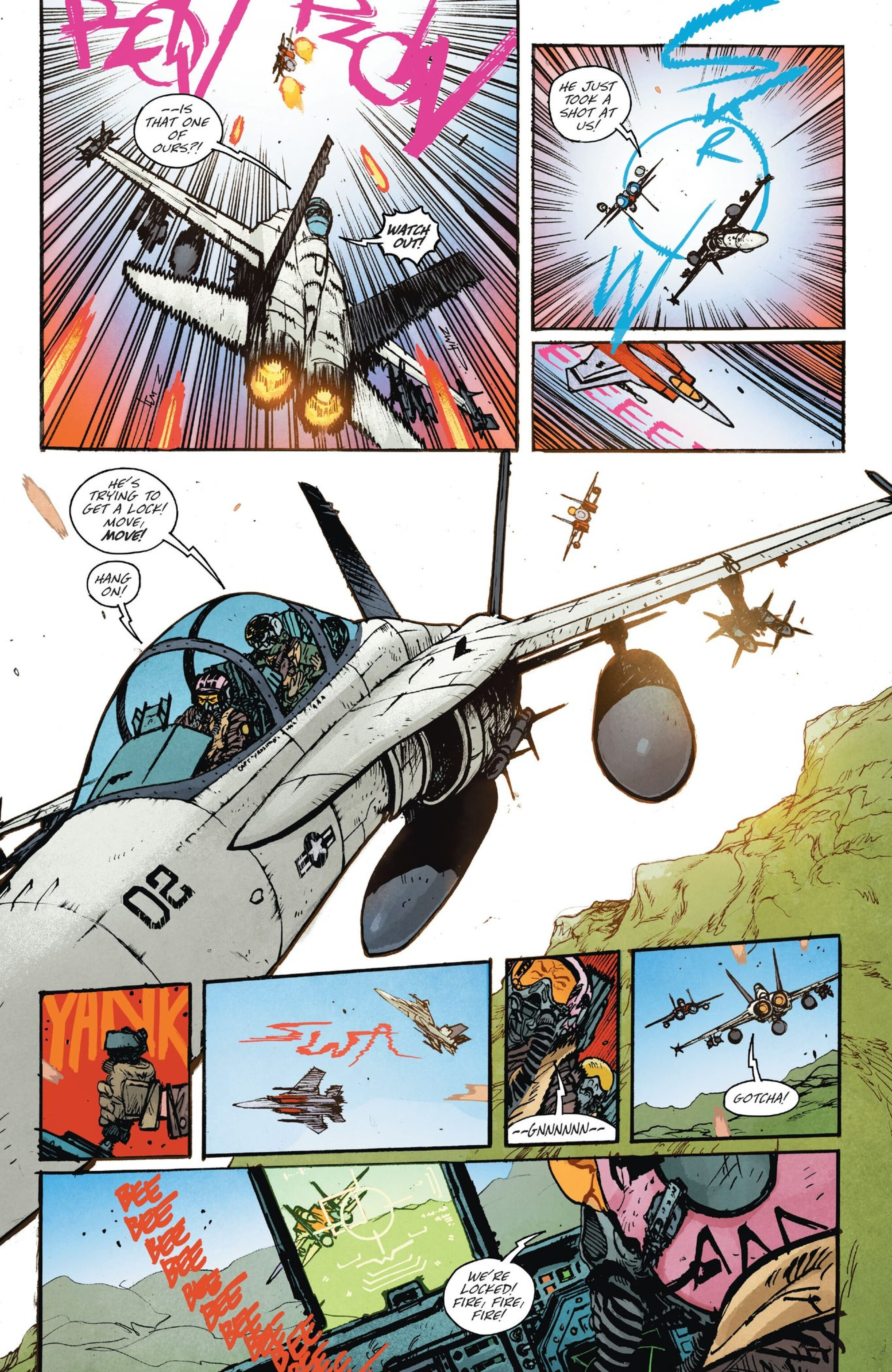

YEOW! HOW MANY OF YOU **ARE** THERE?
GEEZ, I'M NOT A GIANT SPIDER! CALM DOWN!
HEY! THIS IS ALL NEW FOR ME! I'M USED TO METAL AND STEEL! THERE'S TOO MUCH--
BRAKK
STUFF HERE.
NEW FOR *YOU?!* I'M SORRY, LAST I CHECKED, ***I'M*** THE ONE WHO HAS TO DEAL WITH THE FACT THAT THERE ARE APPARENTLY ***GIANT ROBOTS FROM SPACE*** THAT NOW LIVE ***ON EARTH.*** DO I LOOK LIKE I CAN SQUISH *YOU?* GET A REALITY CHECK.
...OK.
GOOD. NOW. LET'S DO THIS AGAIN. I'M CARLY.
CLIFFJUMPER.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
THANKFULLY, WHEN JETFIRE GAVE US NEW FORMS FOR THIS PLANET, HE KEPT OUR CYBERTRONIAN TECHNOLOGY INTACT.
YOUR TACTICAL TRAILER, ALONG WITH THE LEFTOVER METALS IN THIS QUARRY, HAS ALLOWED ME TO START BRINGING OUR WARRIORS BACK.
HOW LONG UNTIL WE'RE AT FULL STRENGTH?

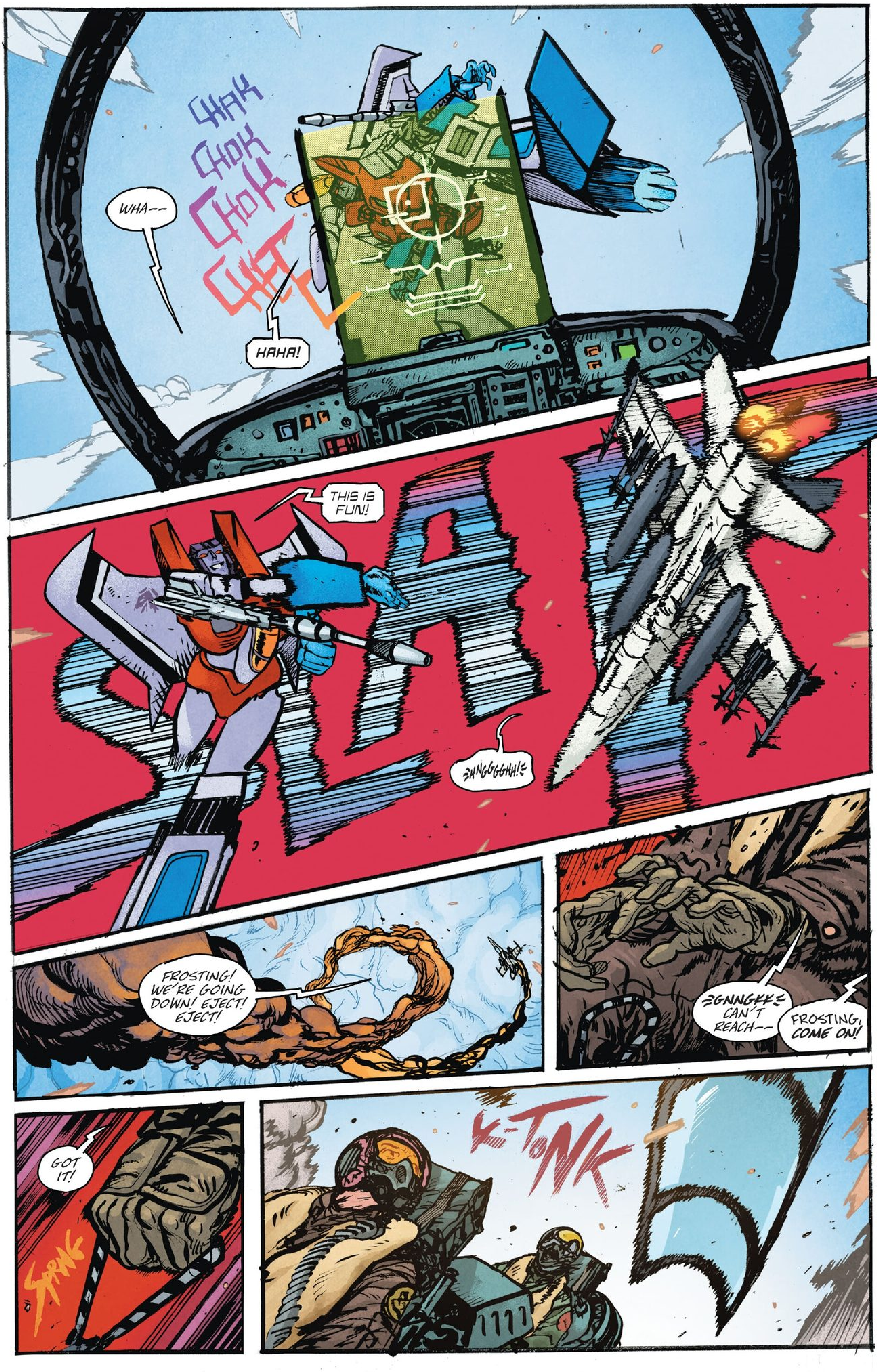

CLIK
WHRRRRRRRRRRRRRP
THAT'S THE BAD NEWS. I USED THE LAST BIT OF OUR STORED ENERGON TO FIX CLIFF. THERE'S NOT ENOUGH FOR ANYONE ELSE.
ENERGON?
IT'S GOTTA BE LIKE--FOOD FOR US, RIGHT?
CORRECT. IT IS GATHERED FROM NATURAL RESOURCES AND KEEPS US ALIVE. BUT I NEED A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF IT TO BRING BACK OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
WHAT IF WE POOL WHAT IS LEFT IN YOUR AND CLIFF'S BODIES?
MAYBE ONE OF US COULD BE ACTIVATED FOR AN HOUR. BUT ANY MORE AND NEITHER WOULD BE ABLE TO FUNCTION.
THEN WE MUST--
OPTIMUS, NO. NOT YET. THAT POWER IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH YOUR LIFE FORCE. THE RISK IS TOO GREAT. IF WE LOSE YOU, WE LOSE EVERYTHING.
WELL... IF WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF ENERGON...

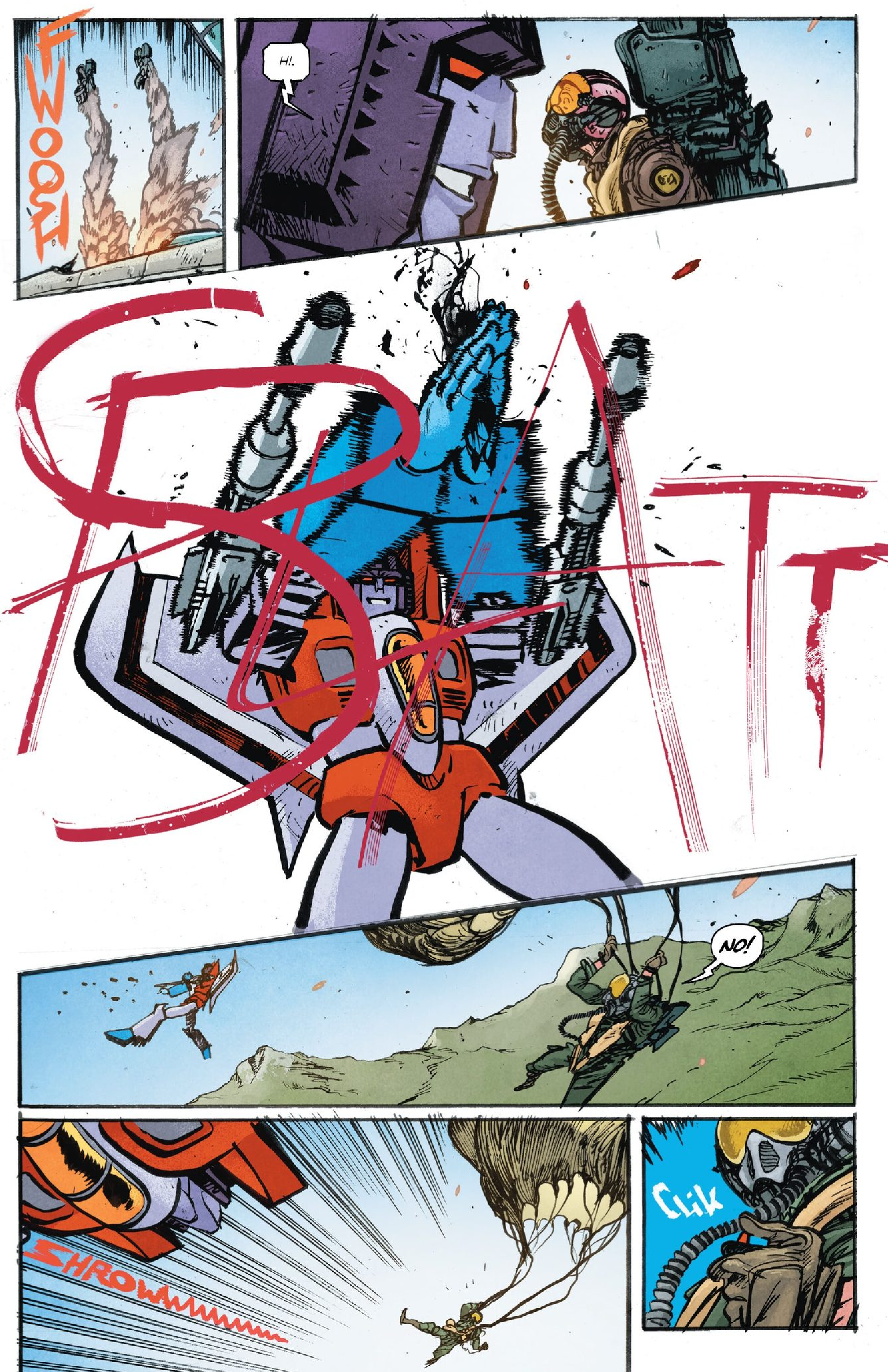

"HOPEFULLY THE DECEPTICONS HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM AS US."
OK, SO YOU SAID A "FLYING PLANE".
NO, NO, A FLYING **ROBOT** THAT **LOOKED** LIKE A PLANE!
FPD
A ROBIT? CAUSING ALL THIS? YOU BEEN SKIPPING SAFETY DRILLS AGAIN, JORDIE?
HE'S NOT LYING, OFFICER. THAT PLANE...
DID **THAT** TO DAVEY.
OK, WE'LL CALL IT IN. GET SOME DETECTIVES HERE.
DETECTIVES?! DO YOU SEE THIS PLACE???! WE NEED THE GODDAMN **ARMY!**
SPARKY, EASY! THIS IS JUST PROTOCOL!
SCREW PROTOCOL! GET YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER ON THE HORN AND--
WHOMMMMMMM
WATCH OUT, WEAKLINGS!
BREEEEEOOOOO

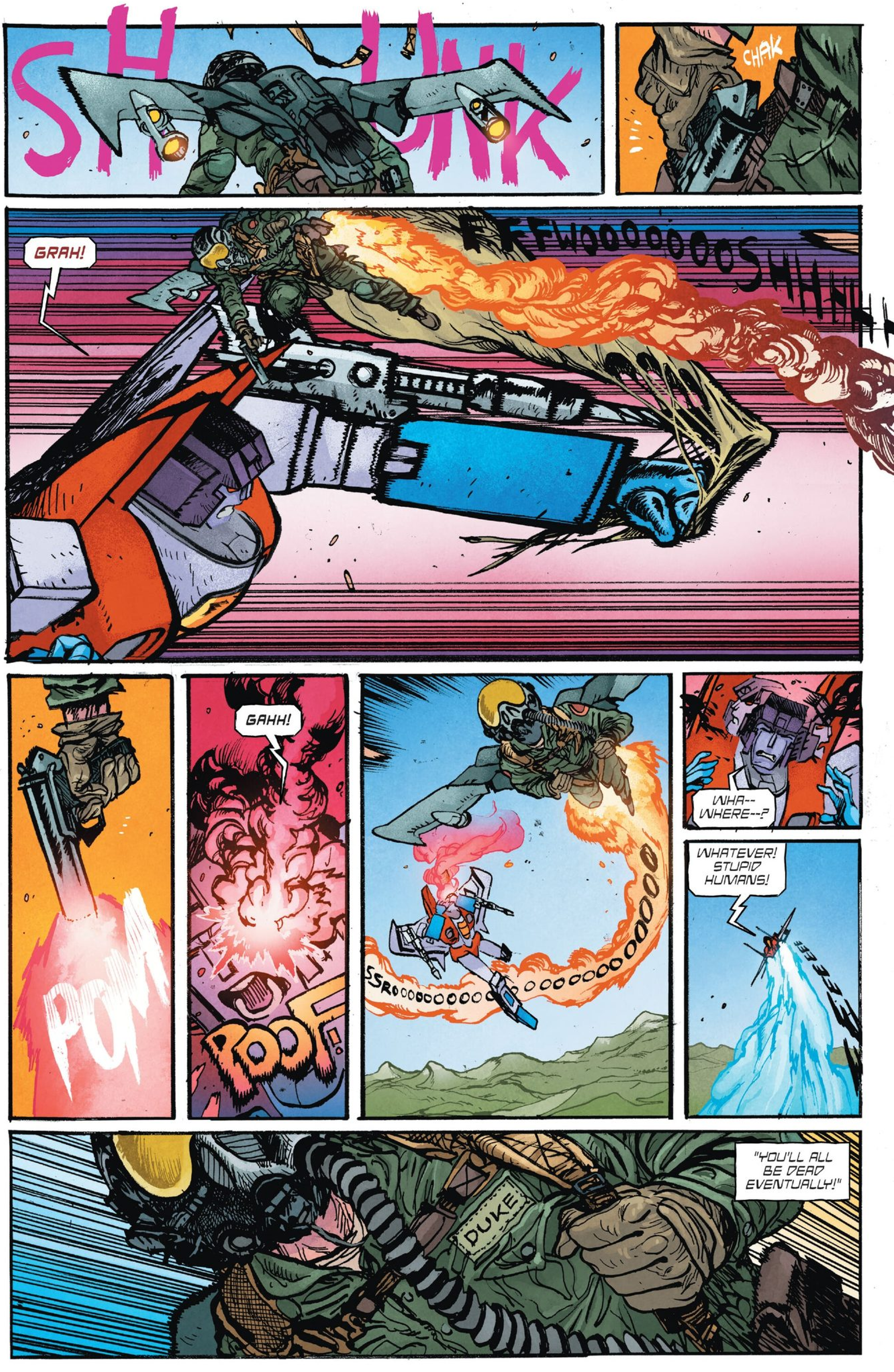

YOU WERE CORRECT, STARSCREAM. THE ENERGY POTENTIAL OF THIS PLACE IS MOST EXCELLENT.
DIDN'T BELIEVE ME WHEN I BROUGHT BACK ENOUGH FOR ALL OF YOU, HUH?
CHOK
RUMBLE, BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF ENERGY TRANSFER MODULE.
WE DON'T NEED MORE TOYS, SOUNDWAVE! WHAT **IS** THIS?
RRRRRRRRRRRRRR
THIS CONVERTER WAS ABOARD THE ARK. THE AUTOBOTS WERE PLANNING TO USE IT FOR THEIR INTERGALACTIC TRAVELS. WE CAN USE THIS MECHANISM TO CAPTURE WHAT THESE CREATURES ARE HARVESTING. WE WILL HAVE NEAR LIMITLESS--
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM BLAMBLAMBLAM
--THIS ISN'T WORKING--!
THEY'RE TOO POWERFUL! GET BACK--!
SHNK
BZZRAKHHH
BROOOOO
HA! IT'S WORKING! CHUG! CHUG! CHUG!

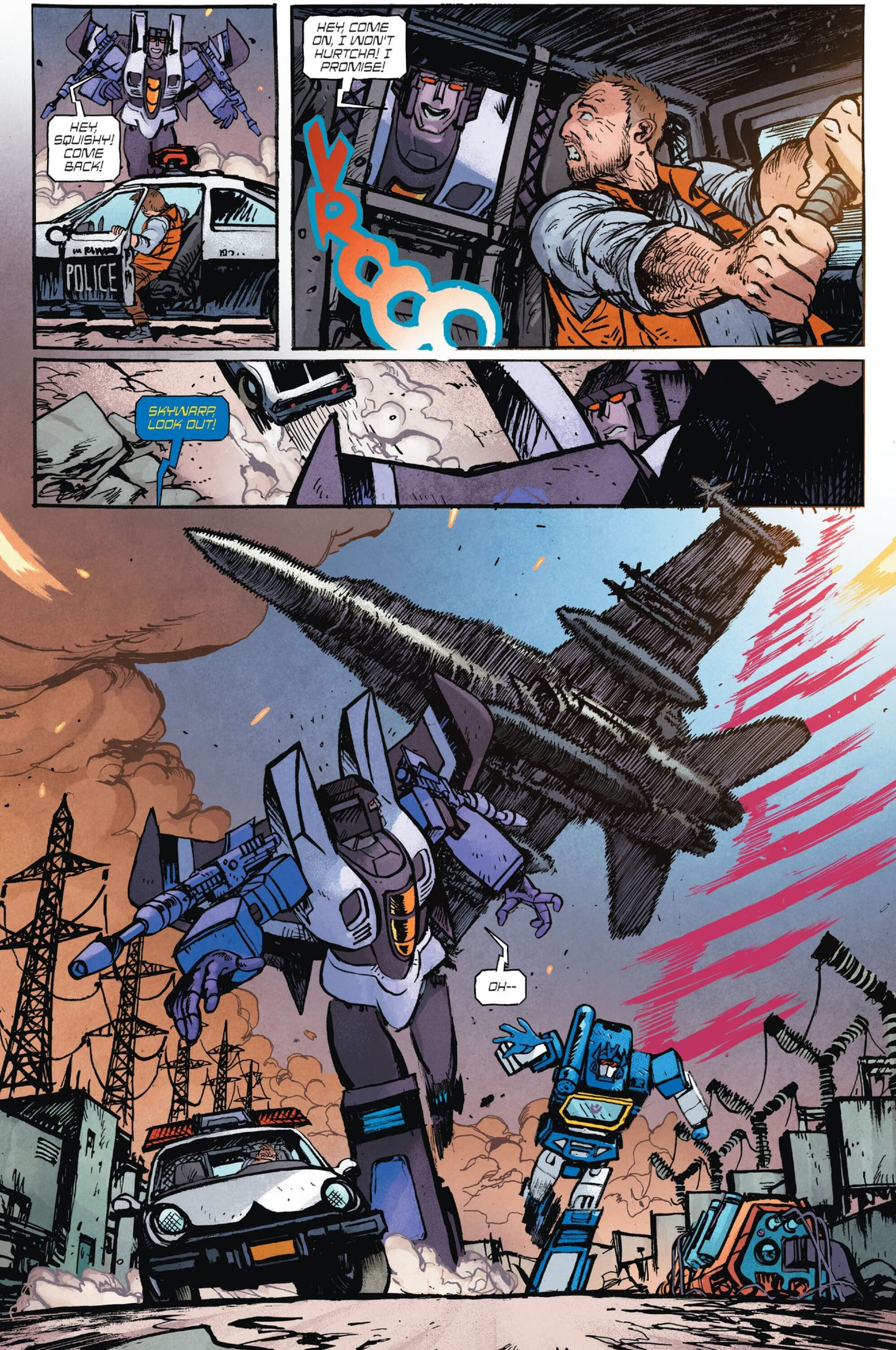

VIPER 2, THIS IS CENTRAL COMMAND. COME IN, COME IN.
CENTRAL, THIS IS VIPER 2. WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?
FROSTING, WE GOT SOME FUNNY RADAR COMING IN FROM THE NORTHEAST OF YOU, POSSIBLE BOGEYS. REQUESTING INTERCEPT.
UNDERSTOOD, CENTRAL. WE'RE ON OUR WAY.
SORRY, BROTHER. LOOKS LIKE YOUR RIDE TO THE AIRBASE WILL HAVE TO WAIT.
ALL GOOD, FROSTING. TURN AND BURN, BABY.
CAPT MIKE "FROSTING"
LET'S GO FIND SOME BAD GUYS.
VVRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
I AM PICKING UP RADIO CHATTER ON THE HUMANS' COMMUNICATION NETWORKS. THEY ARE SENDING COUNTERMEASURES.
THE SQUISHIES? TRYING TO **FIGHT?** OH, I HAVE TO SEE THIS!
I GOT SOMETHING COMING IN HOT.
YOU GOT A FIX FOR US?
DEAD AHEAD, BABY. TWO KLICKS OUT.
Frosting
UNIDENTIFIED FLIER, THIS IS VIPER 2 OF ALPHA COMMAND. YOU ARE IN RESTRICTED AIR-SPACE--PLEASE RESPOND--
SKREEE
I THINK I'VE GOT EYES ON TARGET. IT'S--WAIT--

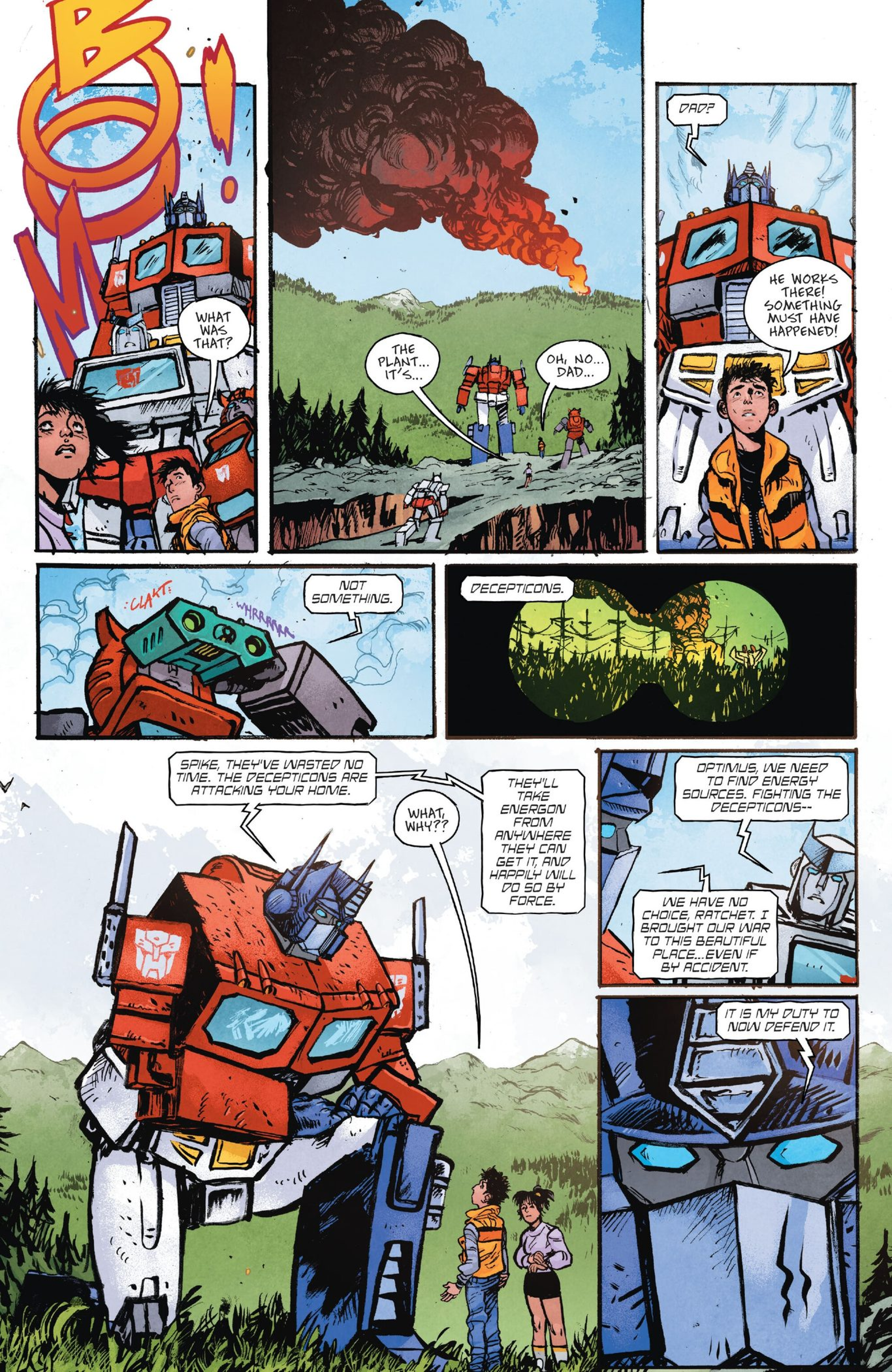

--IS THAT ONE OF OURS?!
WATCH OUT!
HE JUST TOOK A SHOT AT US!
HE'S TRYING TO GET A LOCK! MOVE, **MOVE!**
HANG ON!
02
YANK
--GNNNNNN--
GOTCHA!
BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE
WE'RE LOCKED! FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!

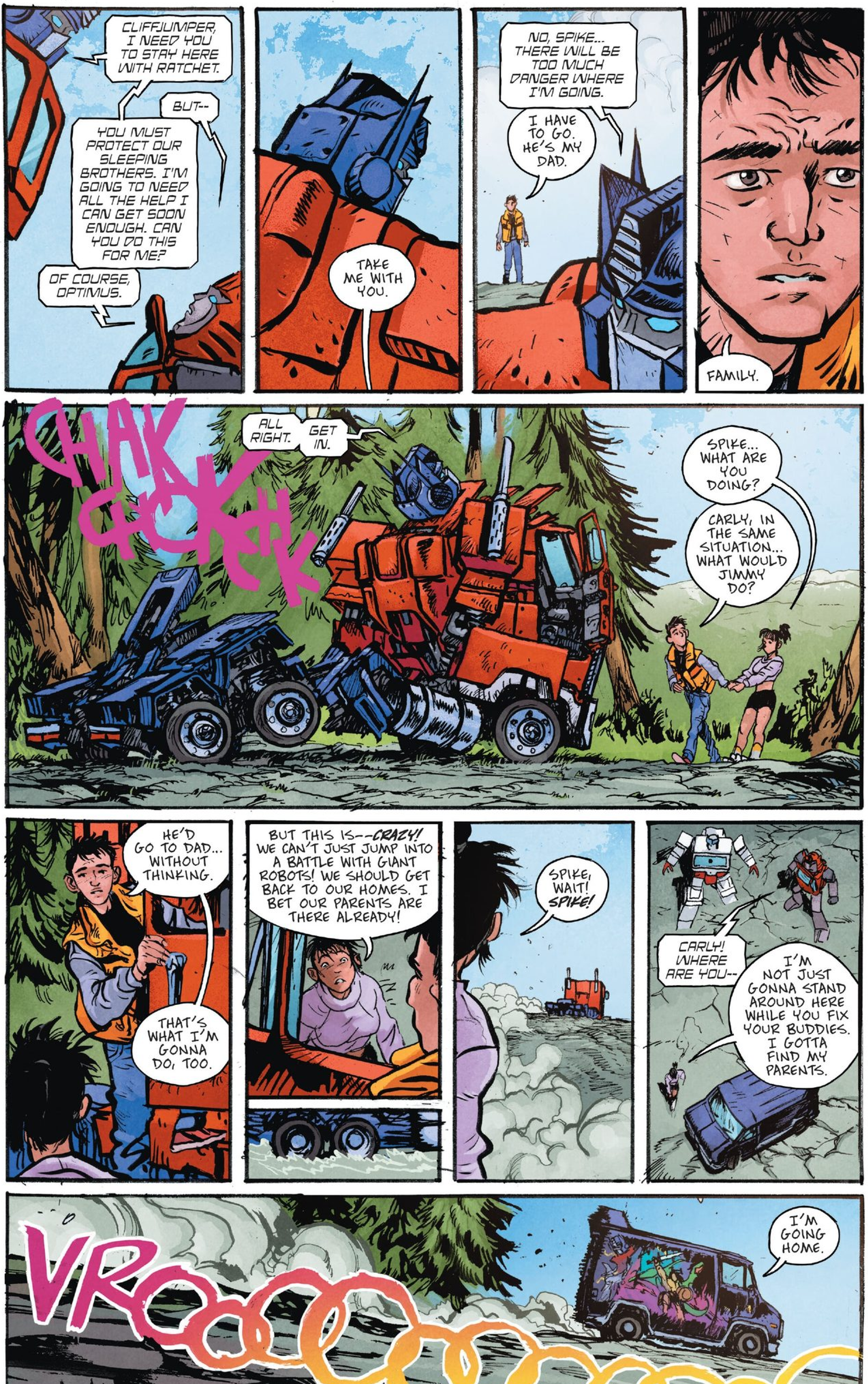

CHAK
CHOK
CHOK
CHET
WHA--
HAHA!
THIS IS FUN!
SLAM
HNGGGGH!
FROSTING! WE'RE GOING DOWN! EJECT! EJECT!
GNNGKK CAN'T REACH--
FROSTING, COME ON!
GOT IT!
SPRNG
K-TONK

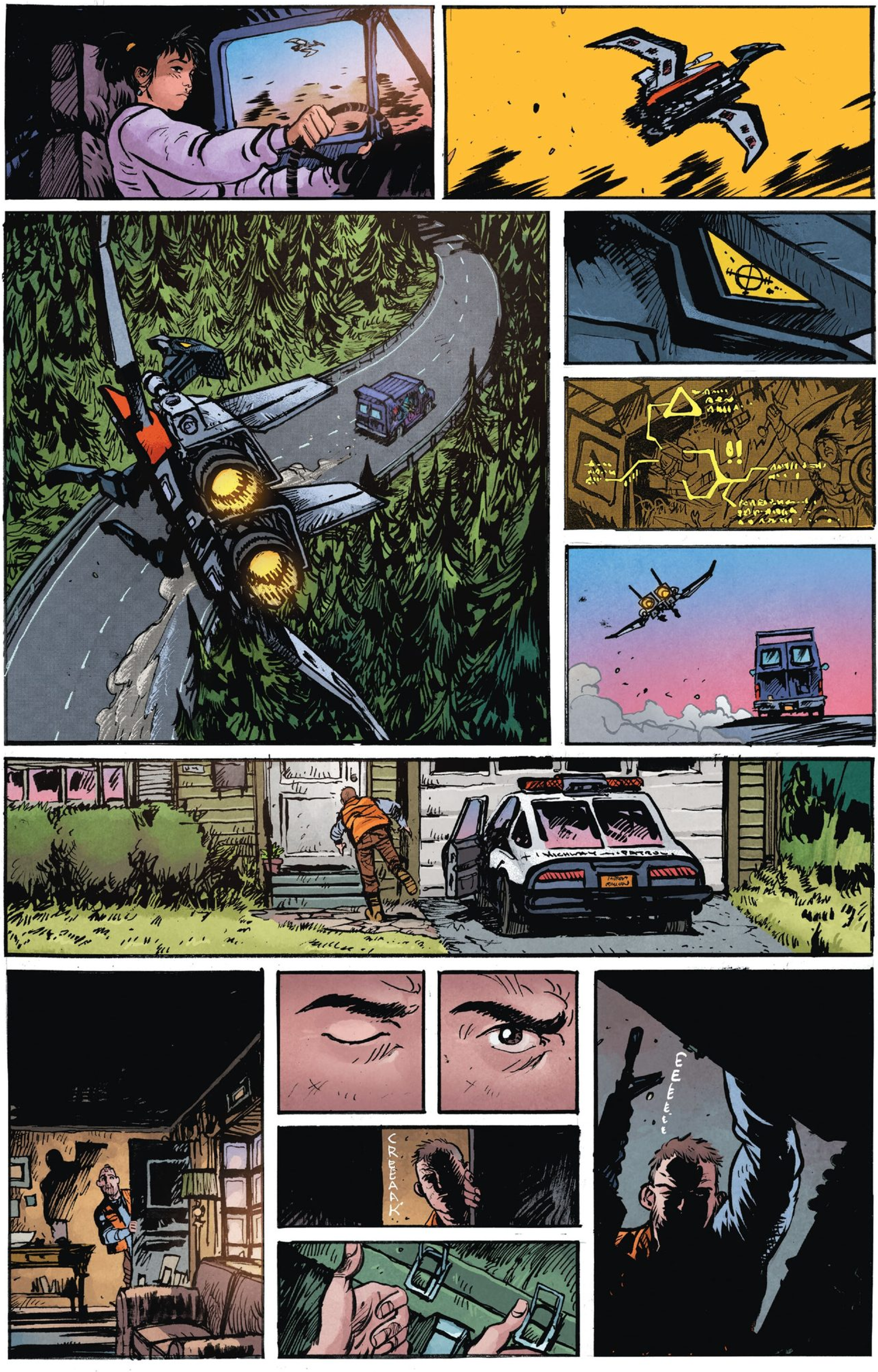

FWOOSH
HI.
SPLATT
NO!
SHROWMMMMMM
CLIK

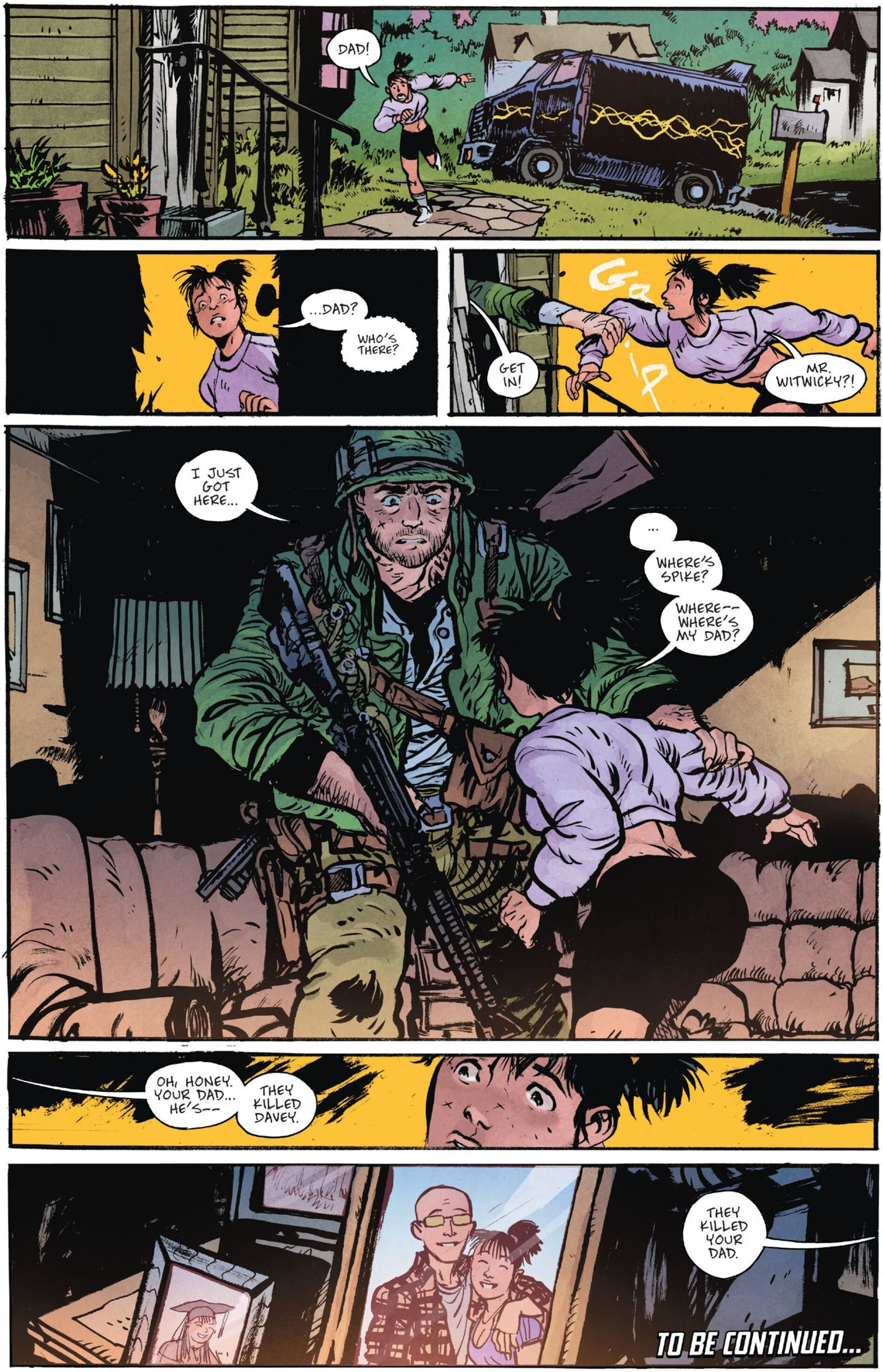

SH UNK
CHAK
GRAH!
FFFWOOOOOOOOSHHHHH
POW
GAHH!
POOF!
SSROOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
WHA-- WHERE--?
WHATEVER! STUPID HUMANS!
"YOU'LL ALL BE DEAD EVENTUALLY!"
DUKE


HEY, SQUISHY! COME BACK!
POLICE
HEY, COME ON, I WON'T HURTCHA! I PROMISE!
VROOOO
SKYWARP, LOOK OUT!
OH--


BOOM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
THE PLANT... IT'S...
OH, NO... DAD...
DAD?
HE WORKS THERE! SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED!
CLAKT
WHRRRRRRR
NOT SOMETHING.
DECEPTICONS.
SPIKE, THEY'VE WASTED NO TIME. THE DECEPTICONS ARE ATTACKING YOUR HOME.
WHAT, WHY??
THEY'LL TAKE ENERGON FROM ANYWHERE THEY CAN GET IT, AND HAPPILY WILL DO SO BY FORCE.
OPTIMUS, WE NEED TO FIND ENERGY SOURCES. FIGHTING THE DECEPTICONS--
WE HAVE NO CHOICE, RATCHET. I BROUGHT OUR WAR TO THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE...EVEN IF BY ACCIDENT.
IT IS MY DUTY TO NOW DEFEND IT.


CLIFFJUMPER, I NEED YOU TO STAY HERE WITH RATCHET.
BUT--
YOU MUST PROTECT OUR SLEEPING BROTHERS. I'M GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP I CAN GET SOON ENOUGH. CAN YOU DO THIS FOR ME?
OF COURSE, OPTIMUS.
TAKE ME WITH YOU.
NO, SPIKE... THERE WILL BE TOO MUCH DANGER WHERE I'M GOING.
I HAVE TO GO. HE'S MY DAD.
FAMILY.
CHAK CHCHK
ALL RIGHT.
GET IN.
SPIKE... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CARLY, IN THE SAME SITUATION... WHAT WOULD JIMMY DO?
HE'D GO TO DAD... WITHOUT THINKING.
THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO, TOO.
BUT THIS IS--*CRAZY!* WE CAN'T JUST JUMP INTO A BATTLE WITH GIANT ROBOTS! WE SHOULD GET BACK TO OUR HOMES. I BET OUR PARENTS ARE THERE ALREADY!
SPIKE, WAIT! **SPIKE!**
CARLY! WHERE ARE YOU--
I'M NOT JUST GONNA STAND AROUND HERE WHILE YOU FIX YOUR BUDDIES. I GOTTA FIND MY PARENTS.
VROOOOOOOOOOO
I'M GOING HOME.


!!
HIGHWAY PATROL
CREEAAK
EEEEEE


DAD!
...DAD?
WHO'S THERE?
GRIP
GET IN!
MR. WITWICKY?!
I JUST GOT HERE...
...
WHERE'S SPIKE?
WHERE-- WHERE'S MY DAD?
OH, HONEY. YOUR DAD... HE'S--
THEY KILLED DAVEY.
THEY KILLED YOUR DAD.
TO BE CONTINUED...

SEND LETTERS TO TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

Hey gang,

Welcome to the inaugural TRANSFORMERS letters column! I'm Jonathan, the editor, joined by Daniel, writer-artist extraordinaire. We were so thrilled to find our inbox brimming after just one issue that we had to dive right in! I mean, after seeing Optimus Prime clothesline AND suplex Starscream in issue #1, how could you not write in? I think that scene has caused a universal paradigm shift.

Hey, all! DWJ here in italics. Glad to have you here! Just jamming some Blood Incantation with their new EP "Obliquity of the Ecliptic" while answering your letters, just FYI. The response to TF issue 1 has been overwhelmingly awesome. Thank you so much for all your positive thoughts and words as the book has come out. I work so hard on this stuff and it feels good to have that energy come back around. Let's do this!

Oh! One more thing-our letters column needs a name! So, send your best ideas to the email address above. We'll pick a name before the end of the first arc, and the winner will receive some cool stuff (to be mailed later)!

This is my very first time picking up a Transformers comic, and I'm glad I did. I had a great time reading this, and I'm thoroughly looking forward to the next one. I did have a few questions about your experience writing this. How have your previous comics prepared you for this series and what is different about writing Transformers compared to the other stuff you've done?

Thanks again for giving me a new series to pick up. Can't wait to see more!

Thanks,

Camden
Tampa, FL

Thanks, Camden. The first book of mine that comes to mind is THE GHOST FLEET that I worked on with Donny Cates, where I really had to learn how to draw cars and trucks in order for the story to work, and the same goes for TF! As to what's different? Kind of everything! It's hard to write characters like Optimus that don't naturally emote with their faces, so I have to find alternate ways to have them show the readers what they're feeling, sometimes in the script, but also in the art. Glad you enjoyed it!

Howdy!

I just picked up Transformers #1, and I was completely blown away. Stellar art, awesome writing, great pacing, it was everything I hoped for and then some!

Optimus suplexing Starscream is, without a doubt, my new favorite comic panel of all time.

Welcome to the Optimus(uplex) fanclub! After reading this issue dozens of times… this scene only gets better and better.

My question is, are we going to see Prime suplexing more Decepticon baddies?

Uh, YES. Also, Google "Kenta Kobashi burning hammer," and prepare yourself. You shall recognize it soon.

Thanks for the great issue!

- Cody

I am writing to compliment you on your excellent first issue of Transformers. My praise especially to Daniel Warren Johnson, who has a good grasp of character voice already and whose excellent art is both dynamic and perfectly matched with the story. Sometimes when I read a fight scene in a comic, it is difficult to tell what exactly is going on - no such problems here! The all-too-brief scuffle in the Ark is handled beautifully. As for story, the mix of the familiar and the new is a good way to draw in cautious readers (although considering I managed to snag the last copy in the store, I don't believe that will be an issue) and it was a very good start, although I hope we get some more good-old-fashioned-Transformers-weirdness in future stories.

And not just any fight scenes, but fight scenes with giant robots (sometimes still in the middle of converting from a jet to a bot)! Daniel's action sequences always feel so organic, even when the characters are made of metal.

Bro you're making me blush.

My only concern going forward is the shared universe. Am I going to have to buy Transformers and Void Rivals and G.I. Joe to understand the plot? Or can I content myself with Transformers and rest assured I'm not missing huge gaps of story?

Rest assured! Each series in the Energon Universe provides a self-contained story. We are focused on delivering the best comics possible for each title, and the reading experience will never be exclusionary. That said, exploring each series is rewarding, both as individual stories and as a shared universe. To boot, our aim is always quality over quantity, and even with a few Energon Universe comics on the shelves each month, they will always be highly curated and will never bloat your pull list.

I do my best to make stuff that can be enjoyed ON ITS OWN, and was a big part of why I decided to do this book. Have no fear!

Thanks!
Geneva Singleton, college student.

* * *

First of all, this is a fantastic first issue! I think this is the first comic to literally get my heart pounding. It had hand to hand combat, aerial combat, chases, and shootouts. I also really love your take on Starscream. This is probably my favorite version of Starscream ever!

Don't let anyone tell you your art is not good. It's awesome. That Starscream cover for Issue #2 is absolutely incredible. How long until we get to see you take on Megatron? I cant wait.

Show me someone who says the art is no good! I dare you! And as for Megatron, with such a… mega… villain, we've got big plans for his arrival to be as monumental as possible. So, keep on reading, it'll be well worth the wait. #WhereIsMegatron

Did you ever get Optimus Prime's hands back?

Thanks! Zack Haney.

Zack, alas, I never got those hands back. I keep meaning to get them on eBay but I still haven't. I recently bought the Masterpiece Missing Link pre-order for the more poseable figure, so that will hopefully heal some old wounds once it arrives!

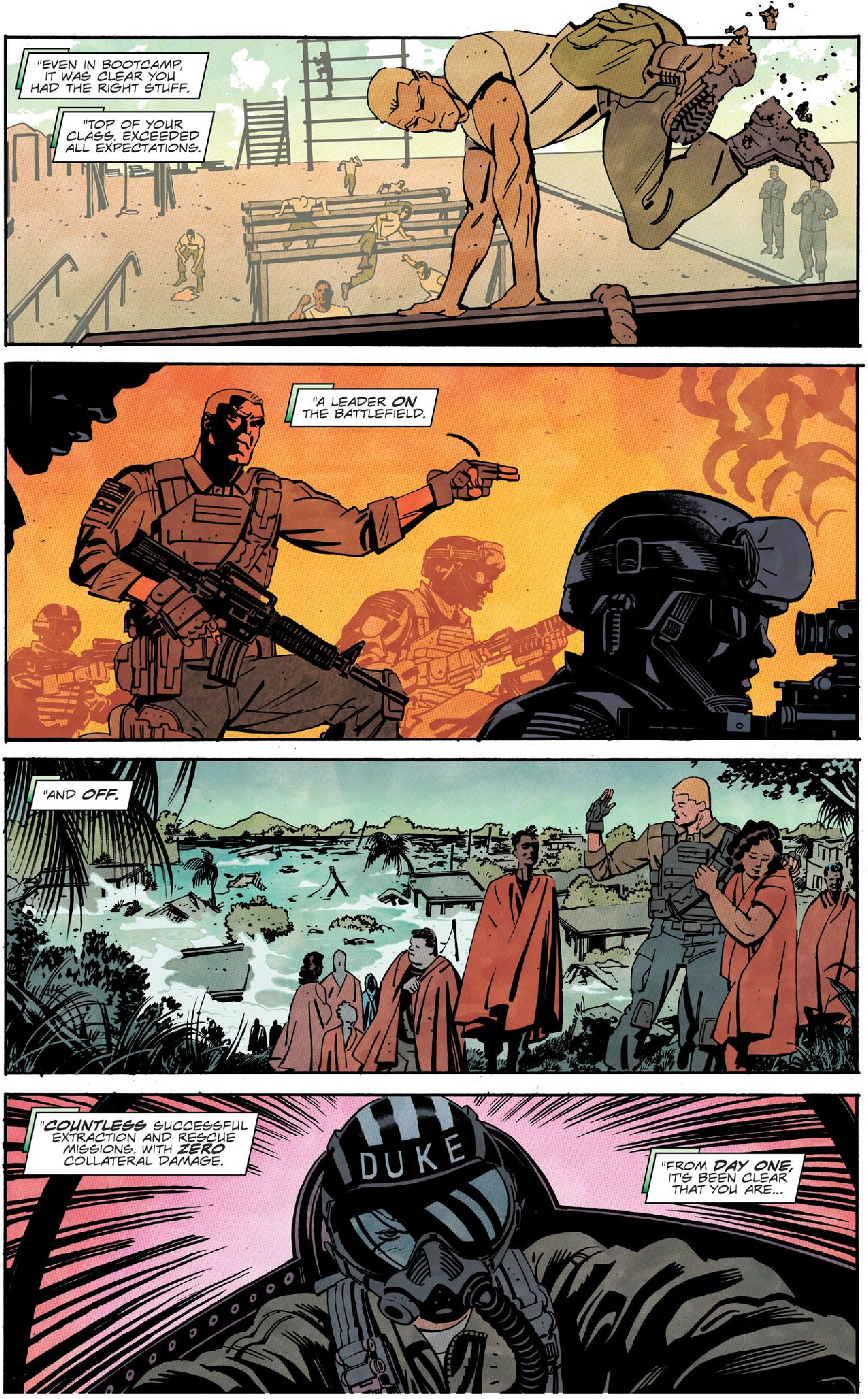
* * *

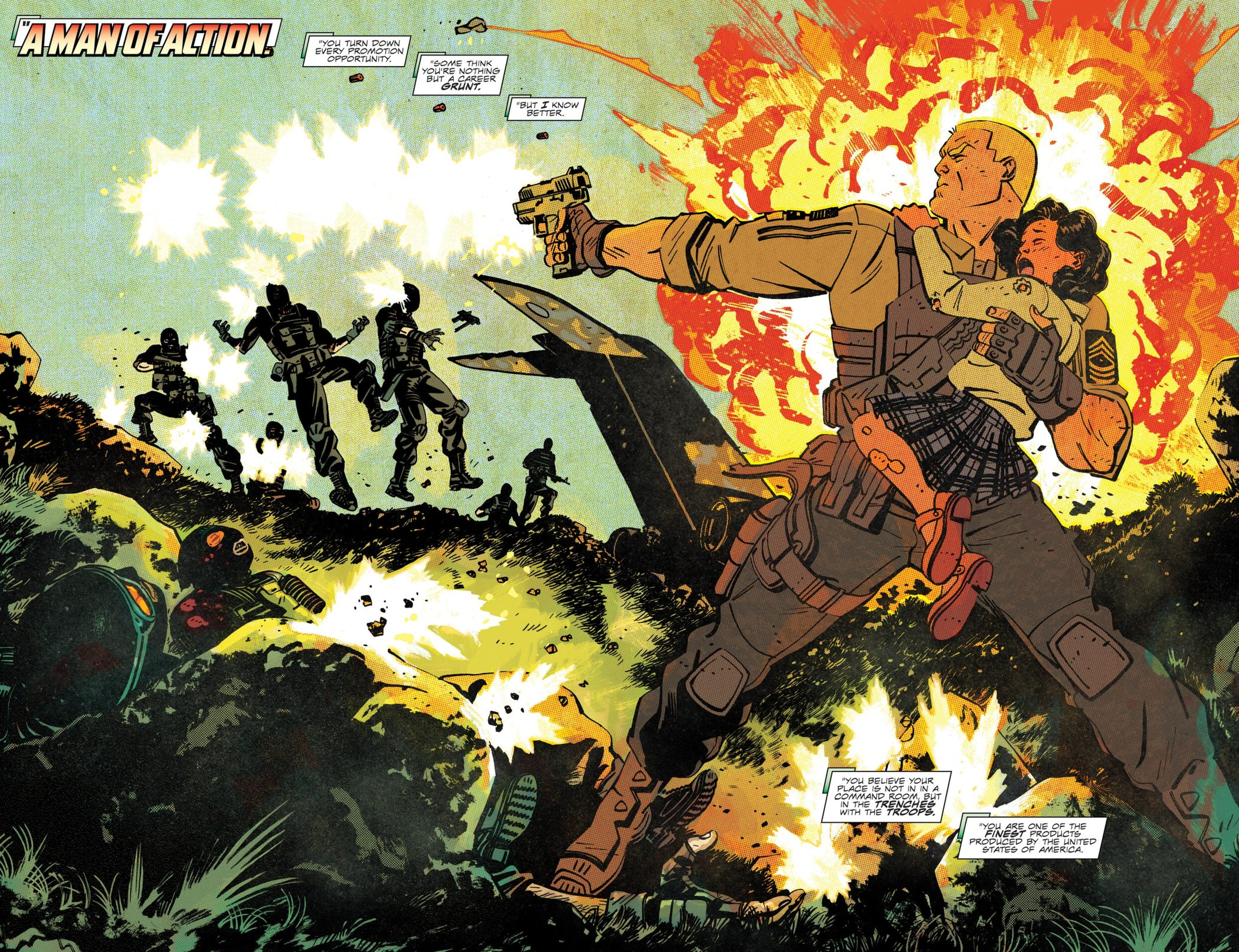
Thanks for reading and writing in, folks! We'll see you here next month after you've thoroughly processed Starscream's utter villainy. Not to mention… the FIRST APPEARANCE of DUKE in the Energon Universe! Speaking of which, don't roll out just yet because we have preview pages of DUKE #1 on the next page!

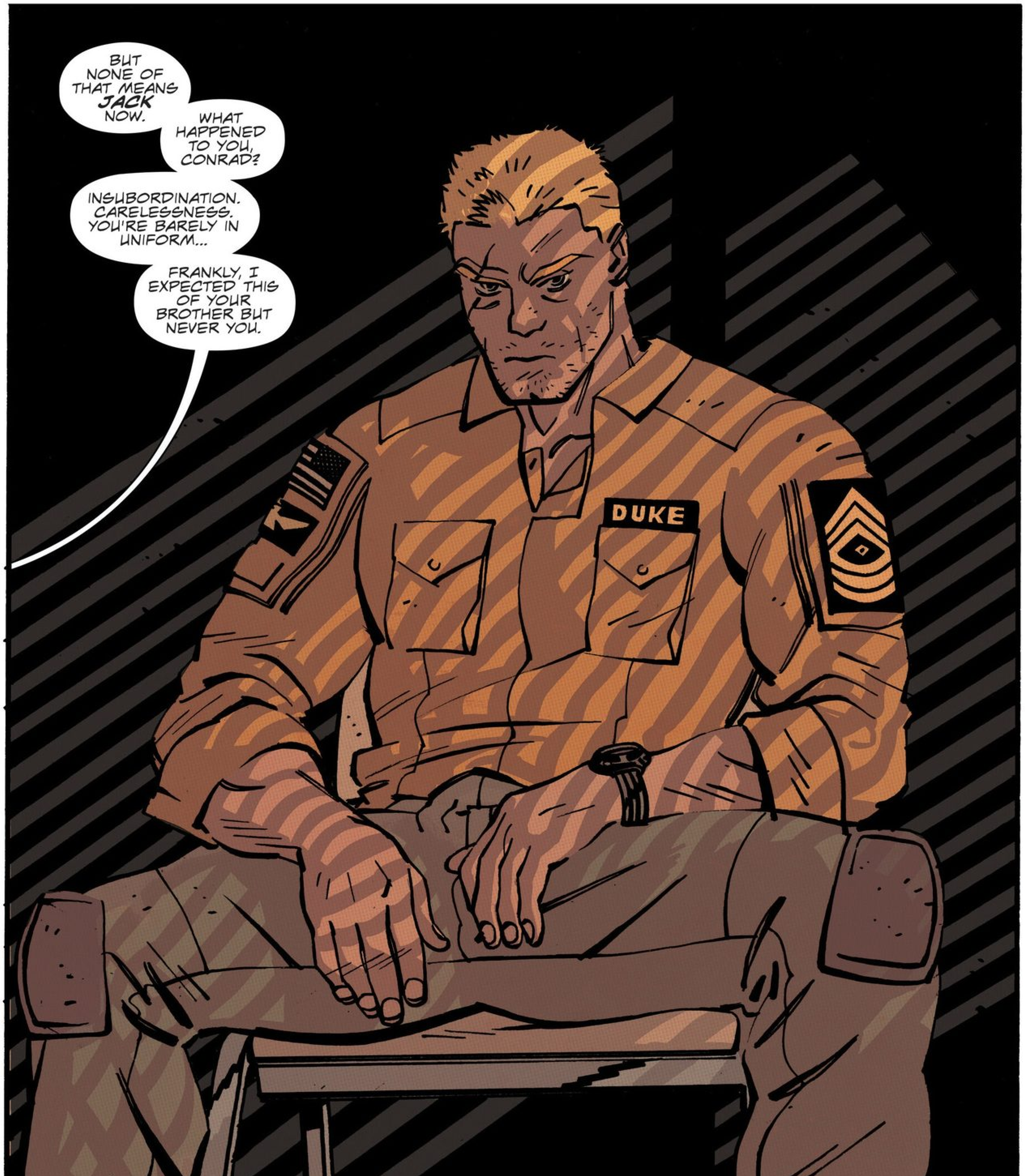
-Jonathan

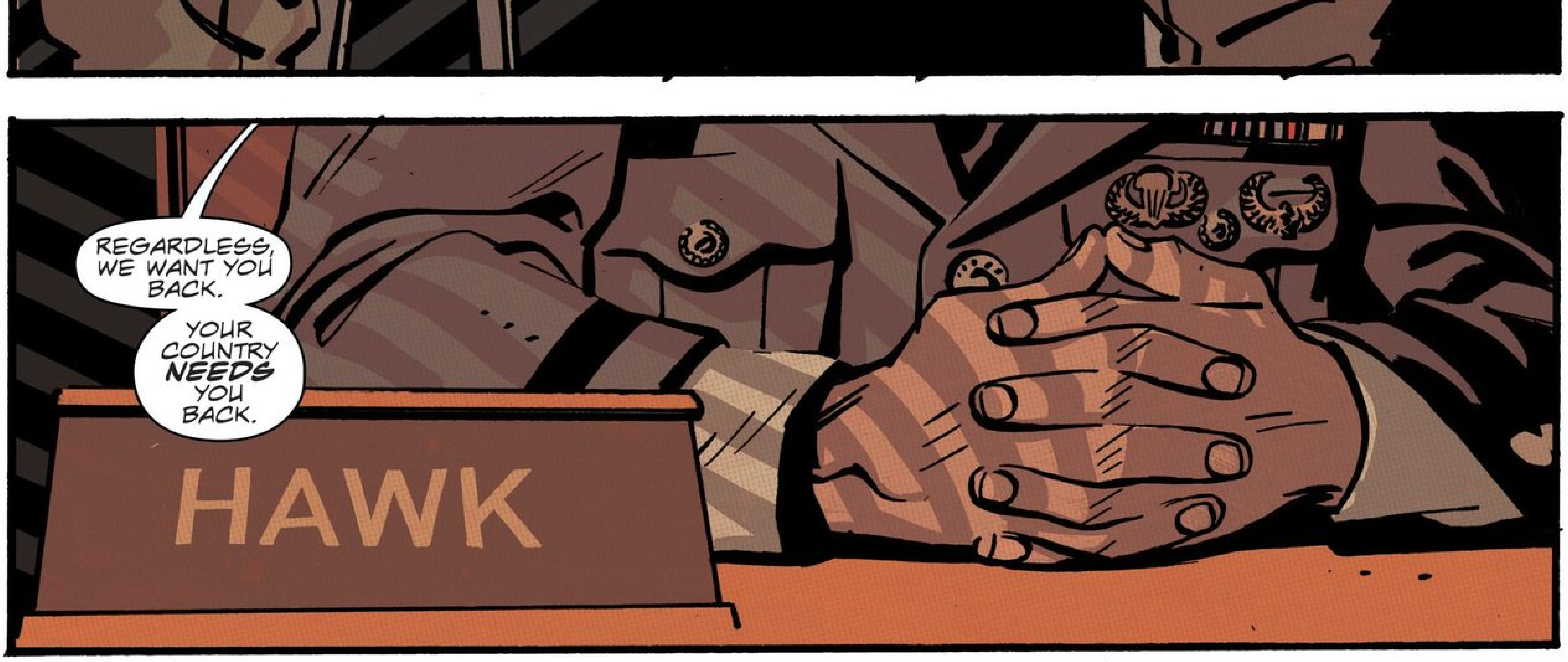
On my way to NYCC as I write this! Hopefully I'll see some of you cool peeps at the show. Special thanks to JOHN CARPENTER, whose LOST THEMES records helped me write this issue. Check 'em out if you need some inspirational background jams. Thanks again for being here. I'm so excited for you to read issue 3!!!

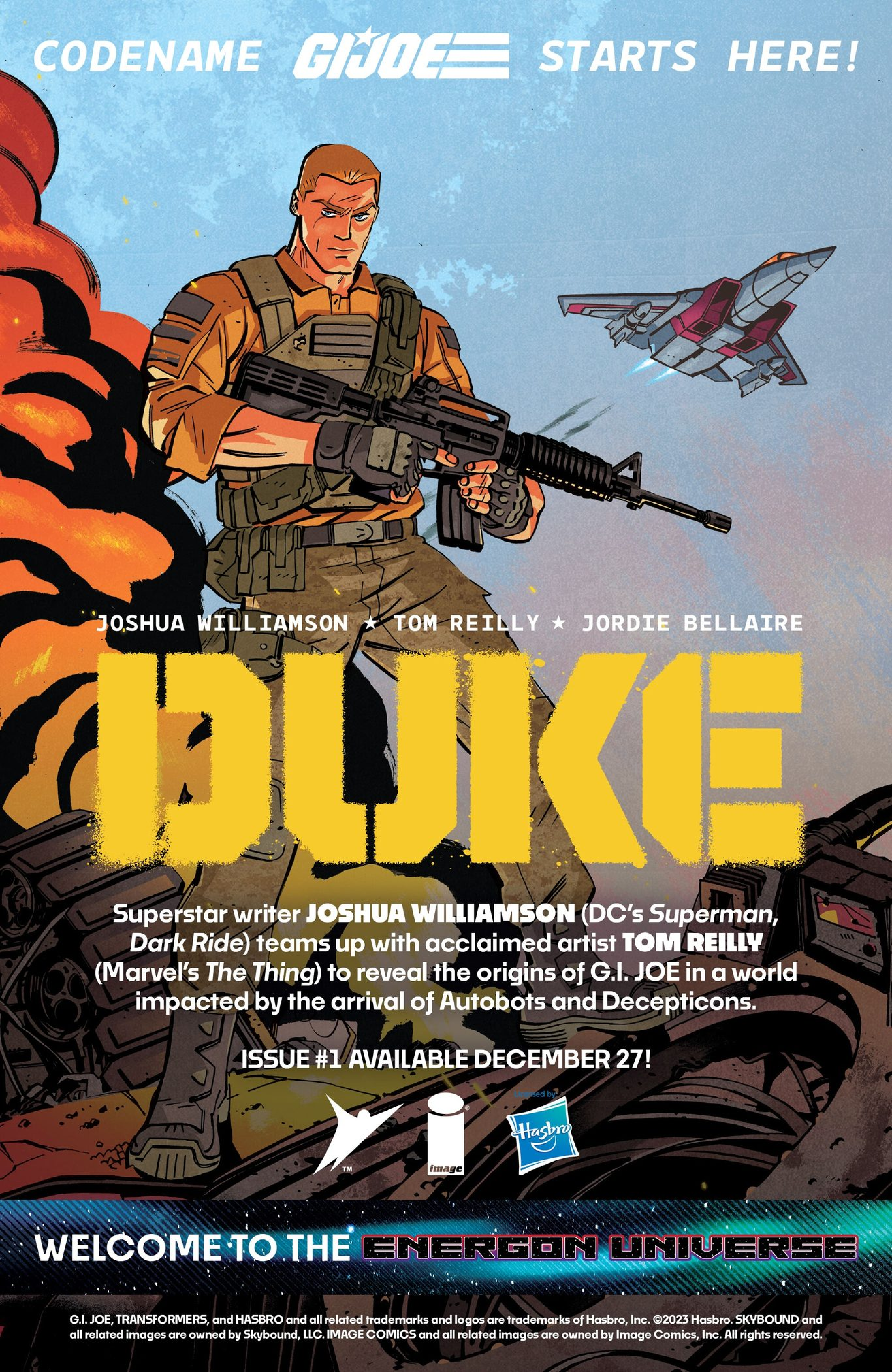
-DWJ


"EVEN IN BOOTCAMP, IT WAS CLEAR YOU HAD THE RIGHT STUFF.
"TOP OF YOUR CLASS. EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS.
"A LEADER ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
"AND OFF.
"COUNTLESS SUCCESSFUL EXTRACTION AND RESCUE MISSIONS. WITH ZERO COLLATERAL DAMAGE.
DUKE
"FROM DAY ONE, IT'S BEEN CLEAR THAT YOU ARE...


"A MAN OF ACTION!
"YOU TURN DOWN EVERY PROMOTION OPPORTUNITY.
"SOME THINK YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CAREER GRUNT.
"BUT I KNOW BETTER.
"YOU BELIEVE YOUR PLACE IS NOT IN IN A COMMAND ROOM, BUT IN THE TRENCHES WITH THE TROOPS.
"YOU ARE ONE OF THE FINEST PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.


BUT NONE OF THAT MEANS **JACK** NOW.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, CONRAD?
INSUBORDINATION. CARELESSNESS. YOU'RE BARELY IN UNIFORM...
FRANKLY, I EXPECTED THIS OF YOUR BROTHER BUT NEVER YOU.
DUKE


REGARDLESS, WE WANT YOU BACK.
YOUR COUNTRY **NEEDS** YOU BACK.
HAWK


CODENAME G.I. JOE STARTS HERE!

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON ★ TOM REILLY ★ JORDIE BELLAIRE

DUKE

Superstar writer **JOSHUA WILLIAMSON** (DC's *Superman, Dark Ride*) teams up with acclaimed artist **TOM REILLY** (Marvel's *The Thing*) to reveal the origins of G.I. JOE in a world impacted by the arrival of Autobots and Decepticons.

ISSUE #1 AVAILABLE DECEMBER 27!

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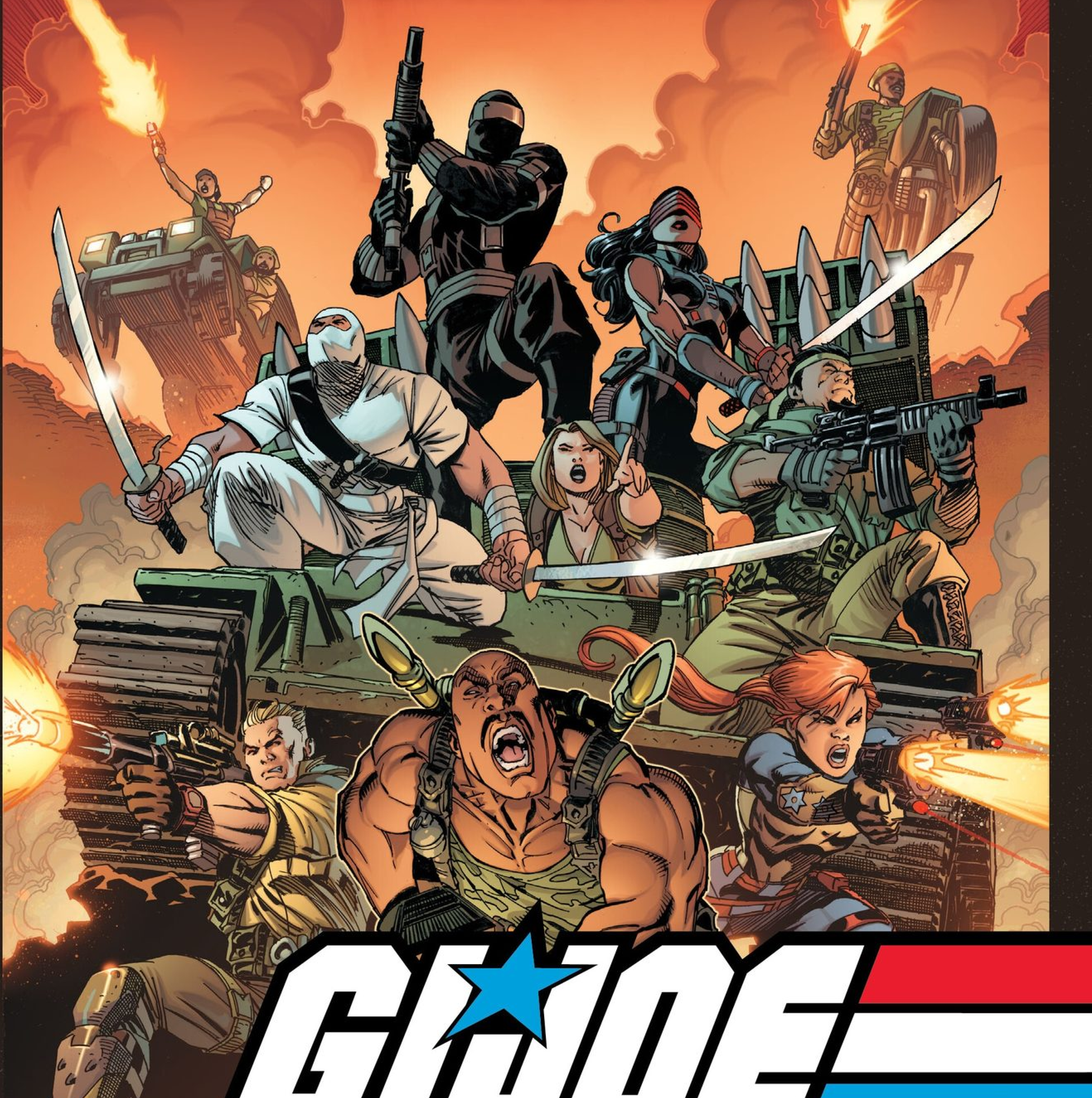
A NEW ERA FOR G.I. JOE STARTS HERE!



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